

UNICEF and Save the Children
East Asia and the Pacific Region

Taking Forward the Recommendations of the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children



Save the Children

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Luc Ferran

Documenter

Manida

Layout and Design

Save the Children Sweden

Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

14th floor, Maneeya Center, South Tower,

518/5 Ploenchit Road, Patumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Telephone (66 2) 684 1046/7

Fax (66 2) 684 1048

Website: <http://seap.savethechildren.se>

UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

19 Phra Atit Road

Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Telephone: (66 2) 356 9499, (66 2) 280 5931

Fax: (66 2) 280 3563, (66 2) 280 3564

E-mail: eapro@unicef.org

Website: www.unicef.org

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CRC:	Convention on the Rights of the Child
EAPRO:	East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
INGO:	International Non-governmental Organisation
NGO:	Non-governmental Organisation
NPA:	National Plan of Action
SEAP:	Southeast Asia and the Pacific (International Save the Children Alliance regional division)
SRSG:	Special Representative of the Secretary General
UN:	United Nations
UN Study:	United Nations Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
VAC:	Violence against Children

Executive Summary

The East Asia and Pacific regional meeting entitled Taking Forward the Recommendations of the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children', held during 6-7 March 2008, gathered 39 participants from Save the Children Alliance and UNICEF offices in 16 countries. Facilitated by Mr. Ravi Karkara, Children's Participation Specialist, UNICEF Headquarters in New York, this important strategic meeting consisted of a review of the country-level successes in implementing the recommendations of the UN Study, an exchange of good practices between countries, and an examination of the possibilities for increased collaboration between Save the Children and UNICEF country offices.

Ms. Sawon Hong, UNICEF EAPRO Regional Adviser for Child Protection, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and stressing the strategic significance of the two-day meeting. This was followed by a review of the UN Study process and of the current situation in the East Asia and Pacific region, presented by Mr. Dominique Pierre Plateau, Save the Children Sweden, Regional Manager for Child Protection in order to set the background for the five sessions. Session One began with a focus on national policies and legal systems with regard to VAC. As with all sessions, Session One started with Power Point™ presentations delivered by participants on specific areas of the Overarching Recommendations from the Study. The participants then broke into assigned groups composed of specific countries, and remained in the same groups throughout the meeting. In these groups, participants discussed gaps and solutions they had identified in their respective countries and documented their discussions. The same process was repeated for Sessions Two, Three, and Four, which respectively addressed Social Welfare Systems, Societal Behaviour Change, and Cross-cutting Themes. Session Five built upon the discussions recorded during preceding sessions to articulate specific country action points and recommendations for ways forward to implement

the Study recommendations. The groups also offered guidance on how Save the Children and UNICEF offices could better collaborate at national and regional levels.

Certain priorities and gaps emerged early on in the discussion sessions and resurfaced at several stages during the two days. For example, while acknowledging the importance of definitions based on international standards, participants pointed to the need for developing conceptual understanding of child protection-related terminology at national levels. This would facilitate cooperation and coordinated action between agencies working on child rights. Another issue which was repeatedly raised was the importance of coordinating various NPAs related to child protection in order to create a comprehensive framework to prevent and combat VAC. Almost all groups deemed it necessary to standardize training and build capacity of relevant professionals and para-professionals to improve prevention and response mechanisms. Participants also suggested carefully-planned communication strategies, and the involvement of the private sector and the media to promote non-violent values amongst target populations. There were repeated calls for reviews of current legislation applicable to children, as well as for instituting the mandatory reporting of child abuse cases in all relevant professions and workplaces. Another recurrent point was the necessity of establishing or improving hotlines for children to report VAC.

Overall, the group discussions and exercises led to clear action points for the four areas of intervention and their respective recommendations. These action points are compiled into an outcome document entitled Action Points to Take Forward the Recommendations of the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children in the East Asia and Pacific Region. The outcome document is supplemented by a list of specific country-level action points which can be

considered as work plan objectives for each country in the coming two year period. Key actions points across the region focused on: national level and long-term interventions; mechanisms for children's active participation; prioritization of prevention through awareness-raising and education; strengthening of legal frameworks and regulatory systems; and building the capacity of social welfare systems.

Following the presentations by each group on the key elements of their discussions, Ms. Hong reviewed the meeting's successes. The particular assistance that would be provided by the regional offices on regional communication strategies, capacity-building, monitoring of progress, and joint advocacy was also outlined. The meeting then concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Herluf Madsen, Regional Representative for Save the Children Sweden, who commented again on the strategic importance of the meeting for both Save the Children and UNICEF.

Background and Purpose of Meeting

Since being commissioned by Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2003, the United Nations Study on Violence against Children has served as a rallying point in the global struggle to improve children's lives. The first global and comprehensive examination of the violence endured by children in all regions of the world, the UN Study has been supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Child rights experts, international, regional and national civil society organisations; academic institutions; and other UN agencies were actively engaged in the Study process from the beginning. The Study also received support from the NGO Advisory Panel, composed of representatives from all regions, and, importantly, sought the participation of youth and children through Regional Consultations which took place between March and July 2006. In total, the Study process engaged almost 300 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), individuals, and other child rights entities. It also incorporated information from specific research reports and the expertise of several major child rights organisations, including ECPAT International, Plan International, and World Vision. The International Save the Children Alliance, in particular, provided significant facilitation and expertise for the participation of children in Regional Consultations.

The UN Study, presented to the UN General Assembly in October 2006, identified six key child rights principles which provide the basis for action and response to VAC. More importantly, the UN Study put forward twelve Overarching Recommendations, as well as setting-specific recommendations which address VAC in the home and family, schools, care and justice systems, places where children work, and the community. The Overarching Recommendations outline broad actions which all States must take to prevent VAC and to effectively respond to it when it occurs, referring to legislative, administrative, judicial, policy-making, service delivery and institutional

functions. Some recommendations are directed at the role of other partners and sectors of society, such as United Nations agencies, non-governmental organisations and other civil society organizations.

The report to the UN General Assembly by Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, the Independent Expert for the Study, emphasized the urgency of State action, and outlined several country targets. The first was the integration of measures to prevent and respond to VAC in national planning processes by 2007, including the identification of a ministerial-level national focal point. By 2009, states are also required to prohibit all forms of VAC by law and to have started the process of developing reliable national data collection systems. In 2010, a report on the implementation of the Study recommendations has been proposed for submission to the 65th General Assembly session.

The monitoring of the interventions/actions by States, UN entities, and concerned child rights organisations is important as progress is made in taking forward the UN Study recommendations, as well as meeting these country targets. In the East Asia and Pacific region, much work has been done to sensitize governments on the importance of implementing the Overarching Recommendations. Yet recent assessments conducted by both UNICEF and Save the Children seem to indicate that strengthened pro-active efforts are needed.

In 2007, UNICEF and Save the Children at the global level maintained a close consultative process in the development of their respective child protection strategies. One of the objectives was to ensure that future work on protecting children against all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect would build on current efforts under the UN Study.

In countries in East Asia and Pacific as in other regions, UNICEF and Save the Children work closely on child protection issues. As both organizations embark on planning for the next

period, they decided to examine the follow-up to the Study's Overall Recommendations at national level in the East Asia and Pacific region, and to take stock of how close countries are to achieving the Study's stated targets. Participants from UNICEF country offices and from Save the Children Alliance members convened a regional meeting at the Amari Watergate Hotel in Bangkok during 6-7 March 2008 in order to make this assessment and discuss further collaboration between the two organizations. The meeting, which brought together 39 participants from 16 countries around the region, had three objectives:

1. To take stock of follow-up to the UN Study recommendations at the country level;
2. To share and discuss good practices as well as concerns/obstacles in addressing all violence against children; and
3. To discuss and plan next steps at national and regional levels to foster closer UNICEF-Save the Children collaboration in our work on child protection.

Representatives of UNICEF and Save the Children from participating countries were asked ahead of the meeting to jointly complete country reports which detail the actions which have been taken to follow-up to the Study recommendations. These reports provided a basis for presenting successes and exchanging information throughout the course of the two-day meeting.

I. Opening

a) Welcome

Ms. Sawon Hong, UNICEF EAPRO Regional Adviser for Child Protection, welcomed the participants on behalf of Save Children and UNICEF, and opened the proceedings by stating that the meeting presented an opportunity to take stock of all the work conducted in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region to combat VAC. The EAP region is, in fact, the first to organize a meeting to follow-up to the UN Study on VAC, and the joint organization of the meeting is an indication of how well UNICEF and Save the Children have collaborated throughout the countries of the region. She noted that 39 participants were present from 16 countries, and that this impressive representation highlighted the commitment of the two organizations as well as the huge reservoir of human resources that is dedicated to child protection work in the region.

Sawon stressed the importance of the meeting on several levels. Firstly, it represented an opportunity to regenerate momentum by focusing on the recommendations of the UN Study. Secondly, it was an opportunity to take an in-depth look at our work and our successes and failures by taking stock of country actions which have been taken since the 2006 Study launch. Sawon also explained that the meeting was organised around a systems-building approach, the foundation of the UNICEF Regional Child Protection Programme Strategy. The 12 recommendations from the UN Study would thus be viewed in the context of three main systems or areas of intervention, which are national policy and legal systems, social welfare systems, and societal behavioural change. She noted that

several recommendations are particularly cross-cutting in nature and apply to all three areas of intervention.

Sawon also indicated that the meeting would allow for frank discussion on how Save the Children and UNICEF can work together nationally to advance common child protection goals. In order to do this, Sawon asked that the participants please think of themselves not as staff of UNICEF or Save the Children, but as child protection professionals. She also stressed that participants prioritize those actions which can be scaled up and taken at the national policy level, as this would be the most effective way to optimally utilize resources and reach the greatest number of children.

She then introduced key members of the secretariat, naming Dominique Pierre Plateau, Regional Manager for Child Protection for Save the Children Sweden, Mr. Adisak Klaklangsmorn, Assistant Programme Officer for Save the Children Sweden, and Ms. Amalee McCoy, Child Protection Consultant at UNICEF EAPRO, as important players in making the meeting happen. She also noted that the roles of the facilitator, Mr. Ravi Karkara, Children's Participation Specialist, UNICEF Headquarters - New York, and the rapporteur, Luc Ferran, were very important in capturing information so that we can document our learning and action plans for moving forward.

b) Meeting Objectives and Agenda

Ravi opened this session by reviewing the three stated objectives of the meeting, drawing particular attention to the last objective. He emphasized that identifying ways forward and articulating action plans were the main reasons for the organization of this meeting.

He then explained the agenda, giving a brief description of each session and an overview of Day One and Day Two. He explained that the meeting was designed on a building-block approach in order to work towards the planning of the way forward and of the actions needed to make the Study recommendations a reality. Each session would consist of two

presentations, followed by group work. The group work for each session would then generate key recommendations to serve as a basis for the next session. In this way, the sessions would culminate toward action plans for taking the recommendations forward at the national level as well as action points for UNICEF and Save the Children to work together more effectively.

Ravi stressed that the timeframe for the action plans would be two years. This limited timeframe means that plans must be concrete and realistic. The final session would then bring together national level recommendations into a regional synthesis.

c) Introduction of Participants

Ravi asked the participants to introduce themselves and to think of one key value which best describes their work in child protection. Participants gave their names and the following list of collective values was compiled:

Accuracy - Social attitudes - Justice - Challenge - Equality - Participation - Social Justice - Spirit and Motivation - Creativity- Compassion - Child protection - Respect - Universality - Frankness - Commitment - Influence - Protection - Societal

Change - Equality - Passion - Sustainability - Non-violence - Inspiration - Collaboration - Child Safety - Best interests of the child - Protection - Dignity-Survival - Passion- Tenacity - Innovation - Quality - Patience - Action - Understanding - Sharing

Ravi explained that these values were what the participants needed in order to take the agenda forward, and that they should bear them in mind throughout the meeting.

II. Child protection and the UN Study: Where are we now?

Overview of the UN Study Global Process and Progress in the EAP Region by Mr. Dominique Pierre Plateau, Regional Manager - Child Protection, Save the Children Sweden

Dominique began by explaining that his

presentation would first cover a review of progress at the global level since the launch of the UN Study in October 2006. He would then talk about progress in the regional context before concluding by a description of the overall situation of child protection in the region, based

on the country updates provided as well as the findings of a regional assessment conducted by Save the Children in 2007.

In his introduction, Dominique cited major consultations and milestones of the UN Study process, notably the nine regional consultations of 2005 (including the one which took place in Bangkok during 14-16 June 2005) and the presentation of the UN Study Report to the UN General Assembly in October 2006. He referred to the many actors involved in this process. UNICEF was one of the coordinating entities for the Study, with other actors including the UN Study Secretariat, the NGO Advisory Panel, several INGOs, local NGOs, individual experts including children themselves. Dominique referred participants to the following websites for further details: www.violencestudy.org, www.crin.org/violence/, www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

Dominique then covered progress at the global level since October 2007. The NGO Advisory Panel reconstituted itself and became the NGO Advisory Council. He explained that the purpose of the NGO Advisory Council is to maintain NGO involvement at national, regional and international levels in follow-up advocacy with governments, UN agencies and others for full implementation of the Study's recommendations. He noted that the EAP representative on the NGO Advisory Council is Ms. Irene V. Fonacier-Fellizar of the Philippines. There are seven other regional representatives and nine international representatives on the Council. As a gathering of experts representing organisations committed to following through with the recommendations of the UN Study, the Advisory Council is the prime mover for ensuring NGO involvement in making the recommendations a reality. The Council is also tasked with identifying key priorities and follow-up strategies in collaboration with the Independent Expert and Inter-agency Working Group. Finally, strengthening communication channels for transmitting information on the UN Study to the NGO community as well as conveying information

from the field to the SRSG and other UN agencies are also included in the mandate of the Advisory Council.

He then stressed the global attention and momentum generated through efforts by the Advisory Council. Dominique highlighted the Advisory Council's role in initiating the global petition aimed at influencing the members of the UN General Assembly in agreeing to the creation of the post for the Special Representative of the Secretary General on VAC. This petition, which advocated for an immediate appointment of a Special Representative on VAC, received global support and was endorsed by over 1000 organisations and individuals.

At the same time, the NGO Advisory Council shared an outline of the mandate of the Special Representative, indicating that his or her key duties would be to enhance the visibility of VAC, to identify good practices, and to coordinate communication between relevant actors. In this way, the Advisory Council assisted in clarifying the potential role of the Advisory Council for the benefit of concerned organisations and individuals, and contributed to the appointment process.

Dominique also referred to Dr. Pinheiro's progress report to the UN General Assembly on 19 October 2007 in which the Independent Expert reiterated the need to use the Study recommendations as 'a platform for action.' The recommendations should be used "by all relevant stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels for a sense of ownership to be developed and concrete action to be taken to protect children from violence."¹ The Independent Expert has continuously emphasized the UN Study and its recommendations as an opportunity for action to improve the lives of children.

Dominique explained that UNICEF had also reiterated its commitment to follow up on the UN Study, at several levels. Indeed, in addition to

¹ P.S. Pinheiro, 62 session General Assembly, 19 October 2007, New York

stressing its overall commitment to following up the Violence Study, Hilde F. Johnson indicated that UNICEF would increase internal resources dedicated to taking action further to the UN Study and its recommendations. Also, UNICEF "intends to continue to act in a facilitating role in chairing the UN Inter-agency Group on VAC² Furthermore, UNICEF is in the process of developing a joint plan with WHO which will focus on four of the Overarching Recommendations: Strengthening National Commitment Prevention of Violence Integration of Child Protection Services and Improved Research and Data Collection. Hilde F. Johnson also stressed that such joint work results from the spirit of collaboration born of the UN Study process and that hopefully such collaborative endeavours will take place amongst all organisations involved in this work.

Dominique cited the adoption of the UN General Assembly Child Rights Resolution 2007³, the theme of Violence against children which focused on. Noting that each of the Resolution's articles are equally important, he referred to two articles in particular: one urges States to take immediate action on VAC (49), while the other requests the appointment of a Special Representative at the highest level (58). He indicated that the Special Representative would be nominated and that we should anticipate requests for updates on progress.

Dominique then spoke of the commitment by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to ensure follow-up to the Study recommendations and which urged "all United Nations member States to commit themselves to further supporting the Study."⁴

Dominique stated that Save the Children too has been and will continue to be completely

committed to the UN Study and its follow-up. Save the Children had recently stated its commitment to jointly work with UNICEF in a communication to the UNICEF Executive Board in January 2008.

Dominique discussed the current proposal for a Resolution on Children's Rights to be submitted to the Human Rights Council in Switzerland in March. This proposal calls for a short, focused and action-oriented resolution that could be used in advancing the rights of the child in all countries. It is also proposed that corporal punishment and children's participation should become themes for focused work in 2008. In this way, the UN Study and its recommendations would link directly to the Human Rights Council via the Resolution, thereby helping to sustain appropriate attention to the issue of VAC at global level.

Dominique said the actions that had taken place since the release of the UN Study, included the production of valuable resource publications including, for example, the UNICEF - IPU Handbook '*Eliminating Violence against children*'; the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children's '*Prohibiting corporal punishment of children - A guide to legal reform and other measures*'; and the NGO Group for the CRC '*Guidelines for NGOs reporting violence against children to the CRC*'.

Dominique then brought the focus from the global level to the regional level by reminding participants of the concluding remarks of the Regional Consultation that took place in Bangkok in 2005. The Regional Consultation, which brought together 289 participants from 24 countries, had ended with a strong call to action and a call to move beyond mere awareness. During this consultation, representatives of governments, members of the regional Steering Committee on

² H. F. Johnson, Panel Discussion on the Recommendations of the UN Study on Violence Against Children, 18 October 2007, New York.

³ United Nations General Assembly. Sixty Second Session, Third Committee, Agenda Item 66 (a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children. A/c.3/62/L.24/Rev.1 Available at <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N07/602/70/PDF/N0760270.pdf?OpenElement>.

⁴ Dr. Yanghee Lee, Chair, CRC, 17 October 2007, New York

Violence, UN agencies, and INGOs agreed that VAC in the region is a pervasive problem, and that a renewed commitment was needed to the UN CRC.

Dominique then provided an overview of what has happened in the region since the Bangkok consultation, and displayed the number of national launches and translations of the Study. There have been five national launches (Fiji, Indonesia, Korea, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines) and translations of the Executive Summary of the Study into six languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Mongolian, Thai and Vietnamese). A launch has yet to be organized in Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Thailand, and Japan.

Furthermore, a number of countries, such as Indonesia, Korea, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, have appointed ministerial level focal points to follow-up to the Study. The appointment of such focal points represents successful follow-up to the Study process but it is crucial to ensure that these focal points remain continuously engaged and actively push forward with the issue of VAC.

In the region, he continued, there has been a general lack of truly concrete initiatives with the notable exceptions of Indonesia and the Philippines. In Indonesia, a NPA on the Elimination of VAC was developed by the government during the UN Study process. However, the government has not yet adopted the NPA. Another exception was the Philippines, where a National Framework for the elimination of all violence against children was recently completed through a Government led-effort that involved a large number of national and local actors. This National Framework will be launched at the end of March 2008, alongside a national communication campaign called "Children against Violence." Dominique also pointed out that Mongolia is making good strides in reviewing its child protection framework and moving to streamline this with the Study recommendations.

Dominique then described the overall child

protection situation in the region. He explained that in the majority of countries, the current legal provisions for the protection of children are inadequate. The inadequacy of these laws stems from different reasons. Some of these laws were passed a long time ago and are now out-of-date while others are simply not specific enough or do not reflect international standards. Other still are not sufficiently clear. He also explained that other significant gaps include weak law enforcement, the high prevalence of corruption in the judiciary and legal system, and overall public ignorance about existing laws.

He further explained that, to a large extent, the main problem is the lack of national policies on child protection. The factors that contribute to this problem include the lack of capacity to develop such policies and the lack of understanding on the concept of child protection, especially within a rights-based framework. He noted that many countries continue to struggle with the concept of rights. Also, he said very few, if any, existing policies include the perspectives of children or benefit from the influence of an independent platform for children.

In terms of child protection services and training, he remarked that still few countries possess services that children can easily access. Capacity building and professional training on child protection for professionals working with and for children is provided in some countries, but still exists on a small scale. Nevertheless, this is an area where the number of interesting initiatives is increasing. Dominique also commented that few countries have conducted extensive research to inform child protection services and programmes.

Dominique then focused on the necessity of promoting children's participation in child protection. Increased child and youth participation is one UN Study recommendation that has received the least follow-up to date. He said that in most countries there is very limited involvement of young people in developing and strengthening child protection policies and services. This is despite an increased recognition of the importance in involving children in these processes. Dominique indicated that there are

insufficient structures and channels through which children can participate, and pointed to the lack of independent forums and legislation to encourage child participation.

He proceeded to summarize the main difficulties faced in the region by drawing attention to several important features. First, in most countries, the government sees the protection of children as a matter of providing assistance to the poor and under-privileged. In other words, it continues to be viewed from a welfare perspective and not from within a rights framework. He explained that, by and large, no government seems to have completely understood the implication of a rights framework for child protection - or other children's rights - despite the comments and concluding observations provided by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, or the principles and provisions of the UN CRC.

Dominique concluded his presentation by noting that all countries have laws that aim to protect children against various forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. However, in no country does the government have a comprehensive and multidisciplinary strategy for child protection. He said that there are clear discrepancies between

policies and the commitment demonstrated by the ratification of conventions and other international instruments. Similar gaps exist in some countries between NPAs, for instance, on the worst forms of child labour and the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and the reality on the ground. Although there are mechanisms for ensuring coordination across government ministries and departments on child protection in most countries, these mechanisms often do not work. Usually, they are not functional, their mandate is weak, or they lack resources. Finally, countries do not have an independent oversight mechanism which has child protection as part of its responsibilities, such as an ombudsperson. The exception, he explained, is New Zealand, which has an Independent Children's Commissioner, and the Philippines, where there is a Child Rights Centre in the Philippines Commission on Human Rights.

Dominique ended by stating that there has successes in following up the UN Study but at the same time, there is a need for strengthened commitment and action in the region. He noted that this meeting was a great opportunity for identifying ways forward.

III. Sessions

a) Session 1: National Policy and Legal Systems

UN Study Overarching Recommendations relevant to this session:

- Recommendation 1: Strengthen national and local commitment and action
- Recommendation 2: Prohibit all violence against children
- Recommendation 11: Develop and implement systematic national data collection
- Recommendation 12: Strengthen international commitment

Session One was introduced by Dominique, who began by explaining the grouping of the Overarching Recommendations. He noted that the 12 recommendations constitute a whole and that it is difficult to consider any single recommendation in isolation. The recommendations have been clustered in relation to the topic of each session, so that they could provide an informative backdrop for each of the sessions.

Dominique then reviewed each of the recommendations related to session one. He explained that Recommendation 1, which calls for the strengthening of local and national commitments, relates to the development of NPAs, the integration of recommendations into existing child protection plans, as well as coordination across government departments. The second recommendation refers to banning all forms of VAC through law, such as corporal punishment or sexual exploitation. This involves

the development of specific legal prohibitions as well as the creation of child-friendly services to enforce the legislation. These legal changes must be supported by large-scale public education efforts. Dominique explained that Recommendation 11 includes basic civil registration (such as birth registration), as well as the registration and maintenance of data on children in institutions. He indicated that registration is fundamental to official recognition of a child's identity, and to the State's role of ensuring protection for all children without discrimination. Furthermore, the recommendation emphasizes the necessity of proper investigation into the cause of child deaths, as well as the development of a national research agenda with indicators based on internationally agreed standards. Finally, the last recommendation addresses the ratification and implementation of all relevant international instruments.

Panel Presentations

National Plans of Action, Cross-sector Coordination and Legal Reform

- *Ms. Foroogh Foyouzat, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Philippines*
- *Ms. Eva Maria Cayanan, Programme Coordinator, Save the Children Sweden in the Philippines*

Ms. Foroogh Foyouzat's Power Point™ presentation 'National Plan of Action: The Philippines,' detailed the full process of forming a VAC Core Group to the finalisation of an NPA on VAC. The NPA emerged from seven regional consultations within the Philippines, including one with children and young people, which helped to identify the most common forms of violence and the gaps in addressing them. After numerous reviews and delays, the NPA as well as a national campaign called "Children against Violence"

would be launched at the end of March. The theme for the campaign was chosen with the help of both children and marketing companies.

Foroogh also provided an overview of the main highlights of the NPA. She stated its overall goal is the prevention and protection of all children, especially those at risk of violence. It focuses on the recovery and reintegration of victims/survivors in their families and communities, and the rehabilitation of perpetrators of violence. She then named the four principal strategic areas: policies and laws, social protection systems, information management systems, and monitoring and evaluation systems. Foroogh also presented a poster designed to raise awareness on the physical and emotional punishment of children, which was the product of cross-sector collaboration on this issue. She explained some of the gaps identified in the process, such as the fact that strong cross-sector practices have

not become mainstreamed. Other challenges include the many social layers which exist in the Philippines, and which will make it difficult for the NPA to address each one.

Ms. Eva Cayanan then gave her presentation entitled 'Legal Reform to Prohibit all Violence against Children in the Philippines,' also in Power Point™. She noted that an important part of the legal reform process was evidence-building on the issue. The evidence-building process entailed a review of existing laws, the penal code, and policies issued by various ministries.⁵ The second step of this process was placing violence on the public agenda, achieved through numerous discussions, forums, and consultations. Furthermore, much commitment was generated through consolidation of networks of agencies and individuals working on child protection from various regions of the country.

Eva explained that at present, there are four proposed laws in congress which aim to address violence in all settings, especially in the home, but also in specific forms such as pornography. Save the Children in the Philippines has made efforts to help legislators better understand the issue of corporal punishment. She noted that they have also helped to create a new committee named the Special Committee on Children's Welfare in Congress to take forward the recommendations.

In essence, both presenters remarked, the work on legal reform is largely composed of convincing legislators of the importance of the issue (through evidence-building), and of changing their perspectives. Only when this is done can the various mechanisms and services for child protection be strengthened.

National Data Collection and Research

- Ms. Sonya Hogan, National Child Protection Advisor, Save the Children UK in Indonesia

Ms. Sonya Hogan presented 'National Data Collection and Research with Indonesian Children' using Power Point™. She provided an overview of the research, which involved eight countries in the Southeast Asia and Pacific region and culminated in the report 'What Children Say: Comparative Research on Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children.'⁶ One goal of the research was to provide baseline information at national and regional levels which would inform programmatic work while contributing to the UN Study. The long term goals of the research were to establish good practice in research with vulnerable children, and to identify cultural practices of peaceful conflict resolution.

Sonya noted several challenges which emerged throughout the course of the research, such as the diversity of the Indonesian population and the 2004 Asian tsunami. She then described the 12 step process of the research, which was divided into five levels: preparation, protocol design, data collection, analysis and writing, and implementation. The research teams in Indonesia held stakeholder meetings in order to define the concept of punishment. Interestingly, research in West Timor indicated that almost every child had been slapped, punched or kicked in the previous week. In general, the research revealed that adults were largely punitive in response to misdemeanours by children and that physical punishment is a common occurrence in the home. Sonya described some of the alternatives

⁵ The presenter referred specifically to the research publication *Philippines Laws Related to the Discipline and Punishment of Children*, Save the Children UK, 2006 but other research reports were cited such as *Exploring Positive Discipline in Filipino Families*, Save the Children Sweden, ongoing; *Towards a Child-Friendly Education Environment: Baseline Research on Violence Against Children in Public Schools*, Philippine Women's University-CWC-UNICEF, July 2007; *Sub-regional Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey*, which included questions on child discipline, SR-MICS, UNICEF 2007.

⁶ Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al. (2006), *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific*, 2005, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden

that children had given to physical punishment, which included limiting children's playtime, giving homework as a form punishment, and explaining why a punishment is given to a child.

Sonya noted that another research study in Maluku showed that children regard school as a frightening place where learning is not pleasant.⁷ The results of the research showed that children feared degrading punishment by teachers as well as violence from their peers. The research also demonstrated that children can make valuable suggestions about the improvement of the conditions in schools. Lastly, Sonya explained that Save the Children and UNICEF looked at the quality of care in institutions as part of another research study in Maluku.⁸ Sonya explained that the research itself created a possibility for children to meet and speak with each other even when they came from different religious communities.

Question and Answer

Following these presentations, there were several questions and observations. Ms. Maria Victoria Juat observed that while there can be many NPAs (for example, on trafficking, sexual exploitation, and labour), it is important to ask where violence in general fits into the picture. This was followed by a comment from Mr. Guy Thompstone who stressed the importance of harmonising recommendations on the legal situation with mechanisms which already are in place. Ms. Astrid Gonzaga Dionisio wondered if there were already proper data collection mechanisms in place and if so, how these were working. Sonya responded that it is a question of

consolidating while focusing on those issues that need to be highlighted. We are not looking at separate systems but one which addresses all these issues. Forough followed by explaining that if one wants to start from scratch, yes, it makes sense to develop a comprehensive legal framework. However, in the Philippines, there are strong and issue-based legal frameworks. The same officials and experts involved in developing laws on violence in work setting are also involved in other issues. This has allowed for consistency, and UNICEF works to ensure this synergy continues.

Mr. Jerome Conilleau asked whether the media played a role in bringing violence VAC to the political agenda. The answer was that yes, the media had helped generate public discussion, but that the media should not be considered as the only tool to use in raising awareness on VAC.

Working Group Discussion

Ravi then explained the next steps for working group discussions. He indicated that the groups were broken into countries at similar stages of working on follow-up to the Study, as follows:

- Group 1: Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea
- Group 2: Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Malaysia
- Group 3: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia
- Group 4: Indonesia and Philippines
- Group 5: Thailand and Vietnam

The following methodology was also explained to the plenary as the process for working group discussions for all meeting sessions.

⁷. Save the Children UK, *Safe School: A Child Facilitated Research in Ambon, Maluku*, Save the Children UK, 2007, Indonesia. .

⁸. UNICEF, *Someone that Matters: The Quality of Care in Childcare Institutions in Indonesia*, Save the Children UK, The Ministry of Social Affairs (DEPSOS), 2007, UNICEF, Indonesia.

Methodological Note:

Each group was asked to nominate a time-keeper, a moderator, and a note-taker. For each session, the working groups received a set of discussion questions specific to the session to guide their input. The note-taker would record the ideas of each group which would then be reported back to the plenary.

A laptop was provided to each group so that the discussions of Session One could be recorded and built into the discussions of the following session, moving towards the final recommendations for action to be made in Session Five. The records were used by the rapporteur to make a synthesis of each group's discussions over the two days as well as to include in the present report the main recommendations to emerge.

At the end of each session, each group was asked to feedback the two main points which had surfaced from that session's discussions.

Questions:

For Session One, each group was asked to discuss the most realistic ways of taking action on the following:

1. Development/actual implementation of a National Plan of Action (NPA) on violence against children, or coordination amongst relevant NPA(s)?
2. Lobbying for/collaborating with a VAC children national focal point agency?
3. A review of legislation relevant to violence against children? If one has been conducted, what are the next steps for addressing the gaps?
4. Violence against children-related research?
5. Development of national data collection and monitoring systems (e.g. children in the criminal justice system, civil registration system, children without parental care, monitoring of child injury and deaths)?

Session One: Group Discussion Narrative

National Policy and Legal Systems

Group One: Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

Members of Group One opened their discussion by citing existing child protection agencies. In Papua New Guinea, for example, the Office of Lukautim Pikinini is responsible for Child Protection and two national plans are in place. One is for 'Care and Support of Orphans and Other Children Vulnerable to Violence, Abuse and Exploitation' and the other is on the 'Prevention of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.' Both plans address VAC. Meanwhile, in Kiribati, there is currently a steering group within the Ministry of Internal Affairs which coordinates all

issues on children. This raised the question of whether it is necessary to create a new policy on VAC or let it be included in the overall policy on child protection. In Fiji, the Fiji Child Protection Agency has members across the country and has held consultations across the country. This has resulted in a child protection framework being set up. There was also mention of UNICEF-led baseline research on the current child protection situation in Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Fiji.

This led to a discussion of the need to have an overall effective national child protection policy and system. Participants said that it needs to be able to harness all the initiatives both new and current on different child protection strategies and set up a framework for achieving these NPAs. One strategy for achieving this could be to educate all ministers on children's issues and priorities. Another point which surfaced was that UNICEF has a definition of child protection systems and corresponding methodologies. Save the Children is currently developing theirs. Both organisations should see whether the two systems are relevant to child protection issues today and base this conclusion on research. The example of a how a child registration system can be used to collect data on children who have fallen through the gaps was also mentioned. It provides an opportunity to assess the situation of children.

Then, the New Zealand example of an inter-agency group which advocates for an inter-party approach to children in order to raise children's issues was given as was the example of Sweden's child impact assessment which has been used by the government in New Zealand following the development of the new law on corporal punishment. The site, www.everychildcounts.org, can be consulted for more information on the framework developed

in New Zealand. Also in New Zealand, there is a national clearing house which conducts and collects research on violence against adults and children. Similarly, in Papua New Guinea there is a National Research Institute which also focuses on violence in families and against children.

The discussion of these examples led participants of Group One to put forward three action points. The first was that UNICEF and Save the Children need to collaborate on research in general and perhaps collaborate on the development of a national research clearinghouse. Furthermore, while the Save the Children and UNICEF use a clearly articulated definition of child protection, sometimes such a definition is not sufficiently understood or used at national level, particularly between the different organisations working together on behalf of children. This can be limit efficient cooperation and it is therefore important to clearly articulate at national level what is understood by "child protection" and to use this definition in joint work. Second, it could be helpful to create a strategy document that would suggest key strategies and approaches for establishing an umbrella Child Protection Action Plan. Third, they suggested the development of a Child Impact Assessment system like in Sweden, whereby all relevant policies that have an impact on children are assessed regularly.

Group Two: Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Malaysia

The members of Group Two noted first the commonalities which exist between the four countries in terms of national policy and legal systems. In particular, they pointed to the fact that there simply is no NPA on VAC in each country, nor is there a national focal point agency on VAC which is appointed by the government. However, there are focal points nominated among the NGOs. Another commonality is that the countries do have legislation about child abuse, Corporal punishment is prohibited in institutional settings, but still accepted at home. For all the countries, national discussions and understanding on definitions relating to child protection are necessary, as well as clarification on corporal punishment and positive discipline.

They then noted the differences which exist between the countries. It was stressed that in Malaysia, there is a need to develop a child injury databank which would allow social welfare agencies to determine if abuse is linked to specific injury cases. It was noted also that in the case of Hong Kong, there is no national plan as of yet.

In South Korea, it was noted that there is no NPA on VAC, but Save the Children is at the forefront in promoting the development of one. In 2006, a translation of the UN Study report was made (funded by the government), which was then launched in September 2006. One of the reasons for the difficulty in follow-up has been the changes

in government, which make it necessary for advocates to again lobby new officials.

The discussion returned to Malaysia. It was explained that within the Ministry of Women and Family Development there is a lack of awareness that children face violence and that this can cause future harm to communities. Instead, there is a focus on children's education and health over child protection, which inadvertently makes it impossible to achieve optimal results in education and health. Abused/exploited children are more likely to drop out of school, get poor grades, or

become ill and end up in hospital. In Malaysia, corporal punishment is prohibited in public (for example, in institutions). However, there are issues of religious law and community sensitivity which make it difficult to enforce.

The representatives of South Korea then mentioned that the Children's Act includes provisions on child abuse and neglect; however it is still legal to use corporal punishment in schools and in the home. A better policy is needed. There is no specific law on VAC and therefore there is a need to continue lobbying efforts.

Group Three: Cambodia, Laos PDR, Mongolia and China

In discussing the development of a NPA on VAC, the members of Group Three noted several similarities. Notably, they underlined the fact that none of their countries have NPAs on violence against children, but that they do have NPAs on other child rights issues. Any NPA on VAC needs to be included in existing plans. To achieve this, they also noted that the results of the UN Study must be launched officially and publicly in each of the countries. They then discussed the need to strengthen the implementation of NPAs by providing capacity building to relevant actors. The next step is to coordinate all relevant stakeholders in the NPA development in order to better address VAC. Sometimes, one agency has a small budget and resources are not well shared. Coordination between agencies is useful for developing plans with larger budgets. We all need to work together to advocate, they noted. With careful preparation and engagement in dialogue, VAC can be placed on the government's agenda. Concerning the identification of a focal point on

VAC, the group stated that in some countries, the likely focal point does not have the human resources to implement recommendations. For example, in Lao PDR the National Commission for Mother and Children consists of only two officials. In this case, it is unlikely that anyone can act as a focal point. The group also explained that the appointment should be made at the level of the Prime Minister's Office, or to the ministry which is responsible for issues related to VAC. In some countries, the Prime Minister may not be accessible, which is not practical. Not only should the focal point report to a high-ranking official, but there should also be qualified actors to implement and/or monitor the implementation of actions on VAC.

In discussing research on VAC, the group talked about the need for partnerships with civil society and government in order to promote ownership amongst stakeholders.

Group Four: Indonesia and the Philippines

In the discussion on national policy and legal systems, participants of Group Four stressed that coordination is key. The Philippines model was referred to, particularly in terms of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the need to ensure that the CWC has the authority to enforce the new NPA on VAC. The CWC is not a line

agency, and currently it is under the Department of Social Welfare and Development; it is also not an implementing organisation, but has a mandate on monitoring and coordination. In Indonesia, there is inter-department coordination. The group underlined the need to consolidate different data systems, for example, between

NGOs, health ministries, the Social Welfare Department, and the police, and to develop a national system using common intake forms. In the Philippines, the Child Protection Unit needs to be linked with the Department of Health and the Field Health Service Information System. The challenge is that different government agencies have varied mandates as well as different capacities and motivations. In addition, legislation on child rights can be fragmented. Another barrier to effective implementation is financing and the lack of other resources. There is also the challenge that most services and supervision are under the authority of local government.

The group identified several action points to counter these gaps. Notably, they suggested the review of laws and NPAs with an eye to maximizing existing mechanisms. In Indonesia, the NPA is in process and now is at the State Secretariat, after going through different ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance. The problem is that there are only pieces of legislation related to VAC (such as on child trafficking), and the CRC is not fully ratified but only recognized by presidential decree. The government is prepared to ratify the optional protocols to the CRC.

In addition to lobbying and legislative review, there is the need for more research. For example, in Indonesia, research is needed to consolidate the situation analyses on several different areas specific to VAC in homes and schools. Also, research on quality of care is underway. In the Philippines, it is necessary to consolidate data collection into a single system. For this, they

pointed out, it will be necessary to talk to the VAC core group. The Department of Social Welfare Development will be encouraged to review intake forms. It will be necessary to link the Child Protection Units to the Department of Health's data system, as well as to differentiate between cases of VAC and accidents. In all research, it is crucial to package research evidence for advocacy.

Where data collection is concerned, the challenge is with decentralized systems, as there are variations in local systems and no national approach. Another gap is data on children in formal care and the desegregation of data relating to women and children which is collected through the integrated service units in police stations and public hospitals. The information collected in police stations and hospitals does not disaggregate data on women and children. Yet another unknown is the lack of knowledge about existing quality of care. In general, there are databases, guidelines, and software - the challenge is rolling out these tools to the sub-national level. It was also mentioned that there is a Strategic Plan on Universal Birth Registration by 2011 in Indonesia.

The group remarked that there is an emotional component to reporting violence against children. Also, as it is mainly a domestic issue, there is a fear to report on neighbours. All this adds to the problem of an absence of a clear support system. In Indonesia, there is a lack of clear penalties for failing to report cases of abuse.

Group Five: Thailand and Vietnam

Group Five first discussed the development and implementation of a NPA on VAC. Existing plans and frameworks were mentioned. In Vietnam, the strategy is to incorporate the NPA on VAC into the National Protection Strategy. The rationale for this is that at the moment, Vietnam does not have a specific law on VAC, but a law on domestic violence. The UN Study has not yet been officially

launched, and it is being edited for advocacy purposes in Vietnam.

In Thailand, the strategy is to work with the government to develop an advocacy paper (called a "white paper") on National Child Protection Systems. In order for this to be done, it is necessary to strengthen the coordination between

Save the Children and UNICEF. The rationale here is there is already a child protection law but it is not specific enough and the target group is not sufficiently inclusive. It is more focused on children in difficult circumstances rather than all children. The law highlights the welfare system rather than services for children who are victims of all forms of violence. Furthermore, the definition of child protection has not been appropriately discussed or agreed on in Thailand, and Save the Children and UNICEF have just started to cooperate on this issue.

In terms of lobbying for a focal point, in Vietnam, the Child Protection Bureau falls under the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs. The way forward with the Bureau is to share information with them regarding progress on VAC, to place the issue on their agenda, and to push the Bureau to submit a law on child abuse. It would also be useful to invite the Bureau to collaborate with other ministries in the follow-up to the Positive Discipline manual, and to advocate for the official launch of the UN Study at the same time as the National Child Protection Strategy.

In Thailand, the focal point identified is the Office of Welfare Promotion under the Department of Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups. This office is working with other agencies.

The way forward with them is to first collaborate through discussions and to work toward the launch of the UN Study. The government in general is cooperative, but it is necessary to strengthen the relationship and to build networks with other ministries like the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education.

In discussing revisions to relevant legislation, it was explained that in Vietnam in 2004, UNICEF conducted a legal review on child abuse. Plan International has also conducted a review and will share it. At the moment, Save the Children is waiting for the results of these reviews in order to develop a jointly advocacy plan with UNICEF, Plan and other relevant organizations.

In Thailand, there is a subcommittee on law reform to review laws and draft amendments. The next step is to advocate for them look at the issue in a more comprehensive way, as there is a need to see the links between the many existing laws and the issue of VAC.

The group then discussed research initiatives, and four research projects in Vietnam were mentioned. In Thailand, Save the Children will conduct a study on corporal punishment this year, funded by UNICEF and implemented by local NGOs.

b) Session Two: Social Welfare Systems

UN Study Overarching Recommendations relevant to this session:

- Recommendation 5 - Enhance the capacity of all who work with and for children
- Recommendation 6 - Provide recovery and social reintegration services

Mr. Alex Krueger, Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF EAPRO, introduced the second session of the meeting in order to provide some conceptual clarification on what is meant by "social welfare systems". He opened by noting that the understanding in UNICEF is that it is essential

to put professionals and para-professionals in a position where they are able to deliver quality care. This means that solid structures need to be in place, and that only when these are set up will it be possible for social welfare services to be fully functional. He further explained that social

services cannot be isolated efforts but must be part of a continuum of services provided within a wider social welfare system.

Many of the efforts by agencies and NGOs in this region have concentrated solely on children, without recognizing that the child is part of a family unit which also requires support and assistance in order to better protect the child.

Furthermore, efforts tend to focus mainly on capacity building only for social workers and/or on informal community-based child protection networks, without consideration of the child and family welfare system as a whole. For this session, Alex would like to challenge participants to discuss and plan more holistic actions at the national level.

Panel Presentations

Enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and families

- *Mr. Bruce Grant, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Papua New Guinea*

Mr. Bruce Grant began his Power Point™ presentation entitled 'Capacity Building in Violence Prevention for Those Working with and for Children and Families - Examples of Good Practices from UNICEF Papua New Guinea' by emphasizing that Papua New Guinea is a very diversified country. He explained that Save the Children and UNICEF offices are located in different parts of the country and the poor infrastructure has resulted in few opportunities to meet. Violence, he noted, is endemic in society, and this backdrop of violence permeates the issue of child protection in general. Thus, much of the child protection work in the country must focus on improved protection from violence.

The child protection programme in Papua New Guinea is divided into three parts: social protection and violence prevention, legal protection and justice for children, and cultural practices and behaviour change. This work takes into account that most children live in traditional settings and with traditional customs. He cited the methodology 'Triple AAA' - Assessment, Analysis, and Action - as the most empowering means for addressing child protection issues, and that much of the work done centres on empowering children to protect themselves.

He detailed behaviour change efforts which aimed to introduce women to community discussions, and sought to involve them in decision-making at the village level. Trained as technical advisers, women are able to advise and follow up on cases, resulting in increased protection for 71,000 children across Papua New Guinea. He also noted that assistance provided through family support centres had increased, and that the one-stop shop model of service delivery was being utilized. He described UNICEF's work on juvenile justice issues, and stated that police tend to treat juveniles very aggressively and generally have immunity. Thus, the strategy is to reduce the opportunities for police to beat children. He also described UNICEF's efforts to accredit official child-friendly schools. Finally, Bruce noted the work of faith-based organisations, which are working on the issue of HIV/AIDS.

Developing Recovery and Social Reintegration Services

- *Ms. Tina Wesslund, Child Protection Programme Manager, Save the Children Australia in Cambodia*

Ms. Tina Wesslund delivered her presentation in Power Point™. She explained that child protection networks are the latest in a number of initiatives to address the many child protection issues in Cambodia. Much like Papua New Guinea, action often needs to be taken at village level, such as for reporting cases of sexual exploitation and for

holding child rights discussions, as this is the most effective way of intervening.

Tina underlined that the main goals of the child protection networks are to prevent abuse and exploitation through community awareness-raising, to identify children at-risk and in need of special protection, and to refer children to appropriate services. However, reporting has been a problem as police are not expected to solve all cases but to act as a link. Discussions are currently being held at the district level to see how this can be improved.

She stated that monthly meetings are held for children aged 12-18 years while quarterly meetings are held for all members of the village to discuss child protection issues (these open meetings are attended by many men, women, and children living in the village). Unfortunately, rights may be taught but may not necessarily be understood. She said that trainings are therefore being conducted with teachers using real cases in order to better convey what rights actually mean. She also noted that there is a lack of general understanding of the laws and that social stigma is prevalent.

She noted that although a reporting system may be in place there is a major question of confidence, as many cases do not go anywhere because of the weak referral system. Therefore, Save the Children is looking to build confidence in the referral system and strengthen the capacity of the networks. Save the Children and UNICEF are currently looking at a joint mapping activity to improve the referral system.

Question and Answer

Forough wondered that, while the difficulties of working at community level are very understandable, how it could be that UNICEF had been working at that level in Cambodia since 2000 but was still unable to make the system sustainable. She questioned why this was and what should be done. One of the reasons for this,

Tina explained, was that normally the Ministry of Social Affairs was supposed to take over the system but this simply has not happened yet. Accordingly, UNICEF is looking at how to work better with government agencies.

Working Group Discussion

Questions:

For Session Two, each group was asked to discuss the most realistic ways of taking action on the following:

1. Building the capacity of those working with and for children and families at both national and local levels (e.g. systematic education, initial and in-service training programmes, codes of conduct):
 - a. Professionals (e.g. social workers, lawyers, police, judges, teachers, counsellors, civil registrars, immigration officials, policymakers)?
 - b. Para- and non-professionals (e.g. community child protection volunteers, those with religious institutions, community-based organizations, care-givers, NGOs)?
2. Creating accessible and child-sensitive recovery and social reintegration services, such as:
 - a. Case management
 - b. Health (e.g. pre-hospital care and emergency medical services)
 - c. Legal assistance for children, and where appropriate, their families (e.g. legal counsel, child-friendly interviewing)
 - d. Rehabilitation (e.g. family-based care where appropriate, life skills and transitional education, counselling, psycho-social activities)
 - e. Reintegration (e.g. parental support including livelihood programmes, community-based support services)

Session Two: Group Discussion Narrative

Social Welfare Systems

Group One: Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

During the discussions of Session Two, each representative explained what was happening in their respective countries in terms of capacity building. In Kiribati, UNICEF is currently involved in linking social services to other sectors, such as health, law enforcement to develop a common understanding. They are also doing a lot of training with magistrates and the police; there is a focus on juvenile justice and how to deal with child offenders.

In Papua Guinea, Save the Children is delivering capacity building for counselling. Child counselling support networks have been in place since 2004 and 160 counsellors around the country have been trained. They have also targeted correctional and police officers, hospital staff, and other service providers working closely with children. They are also providing child rights training to service providers though there is a need to make the training as relevant as possible. There is also a need to get training integrated into the systems so that the higher level departments/ ministry's take responsibility for delivering work on child protection.

The situation in Fiji is the same as in Papua New Guinea. A secretariat in the Ministry of Social Welfare is where Save the Children run their trainings with NGOs. There, UN agencies, NGOs, and government representatives meet on a quarterly basis. However, there is the additional difficulty that Save the Children is working in the context of a government which was not elected. Therefore, any progress made in child protection is jeopardized because legislative changes may not carry to future administrations.

In New Zealand, national and local government delivers capacity building on how to identify abuse and report it. Work is done in accordance with the 1995 Domestic Violence Act and Child, Youth and Family Act 1989, however, there is no

mandatory reporting of child abuse. Doctors only report one per cent of child abuse cases.

Currently, there is an effort to try to build child protection systems into existing systems. There is a need to train staff who are competent not just in terms of knowledge but who also have the required skills. Training also needs to be linked into existing systems and procedures. The key outcome of this discussion was the suggestion to devise and test systematic, integrated, and competency and professionally based capacity-building. There is a need for agreed standards to guide how we do capacity building and training in child protection.

The discussion then turned to creating accessible and child-sensitive recovery and social reintegration services. In Kiribati, it was mentioned that a good referrals systems is already in place. In Papua New Guinea, there are limited counselling services provided and they do not exist in all regions. Community members will go to Save the Children and UNICEF to refer them to services. In Fiji, referral systems and services are in place but the quality is limited.

In New Zealand, however, there is a raft of services available for child victims. At the moment, there is a review of the Domestic Violence Act 1995 to extend the range of support services for children. Government funding is being made available to train professionals and para-professionals. There is a need to increase training and extend more training on positive parenting to prevent child abuse and neglect. It was mentioned that last year funding was given to establish a network of training to child advocates who work with children who witness family violence. The courts approved counselling to child and adult victims of family violence. Finally, there is action to make the court systems friendlier for children.

The key suggestion to emerge from this discussion was that there is a need to help improve the quality of referral systems and

services as well as to link key departments such as the health, education, justice and police departments.

Group Two: Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Malaysia

In the discussion about building the capacity of those who work with children, the members of Group Two pointed to several difficulties and made suggestions. They discussed the difficulty of providing training to relevant professionals, such as lawyers, and suggested the incorporation of curricula on child protection in professional training (compulsory, not voluntary); the development of a unique child protection framework (outlining concepts, attitudes and skills with respect to child protection); and the involvement of more men in trainings and capacity building.

In terms of para-professionals and non-professionals, although mandatory reporting on child abuse is in place in Malaysia, there is a total lack of awareness amongst professionals

and communities. They pointed out that people hesitate to report cases, as dealing with children is seen as a “family matter”. To overcome this, it was suggested that mandatory reporting with increased manpower and/or a support programme to tackle increased reporting be developed. A community awareness enhancement programme could also be beneficial.

On the issue of recovery and social reintegration, the participants focused on case management, and stated that procedures on handling child abuse cases need to be reviewed. It would be useful to have a child protection registry (a data bank of child abuse victims), and that a centralized professional body should be established to handle child abuse cases.

Group Three: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR and Mongolia

In the discussion on building the capacity of those working for children, the participants talked about the development of a curriculum. The curriculum should be developed jointly in order to design the same or similar curriculum for training of relevant professional groups. In some situations, an expert in curriculum design will be needed. International NGOs and local NGOs should also be willing to share information for this effort, such as for example, materials for training.

For recovery and social reintegration services, the group noted that village-based networks (such as the child protection networks) are a good start for setting up a system for recovery and reintegration services. At the same time, it is necessary to develop standardized in-take forms and case procedures, such as for medical treatment, psychological health, and social support, so that these networks function properly.

Group Four: Indonesia and the Philippines

Group Four suggested that for priorities on building capacity, organizations should seek to build the capacity of the media and seek to improve the sustainability of trainings given the high turnover of staff. Also, they noted limited echo training after training-of-trainers workshops due to the lack of resources and support from government agencies and local government units. Often, post-training commitments are not followed-up on and learning is not utilized in work post-training.

Action to counter these problems can include post-training follow-up, which should be integrated into capacity building plans. For this, each person comes up with a plan for no more than one activity (large or small). The model that can be used here is the model in the Philippines with faith-based organizations. Organizers should also try to obtain the involvement and commitment of supervisors, in order to ensure organizational and managerial support for trainees. Pre-service training is also important: child protection needs to be mainstreamed into the training curriculum of social workers, health workers, police, etc. Setting up a child protection policy and/or codes of conduct in each organization is another suggestion that was made. Furthermore, the Ensuring Child Safe Organizations toolkit (developed by Save the Children, ECPAT and UNICEF) should be for rolled-out and mass disseminated.

In terms of recovery and social reintegration services, it is important to include these topics in university curricula and to advocate for it to be mandatory that licensed social workers are assigned to do case management at municipal levels. It is also important to get the message to local chief executives, such as mayors, that it is more cost-effective to prevent VAC rather than to deal with juvenile delinquency, street children, etc. The group again pointed to the need for cost/budget analysis for advocacy purposes, and explained that regional research is needed

to support this. They also pointed out that in the Philippines it would be useful to expand the VAC Core Group to include the Department of the Interior and local government. Furthermore, it is important to ensure sufficient quality of social services for children at local level and that local government hires competent and licensed social workers. However, this requirement is not in the existing Local Government Code, which defines the responsibilities of local government units in delivering services (including social welfare services) at the local level under a decentralized form of government. Under the Code, social welfare services are devolved to local government units (LGU), which means that it is the LGU that supervises the local social workers. Thus, the group discussed a proposal whereby the recommendation was to either work towards amending the Local Government Code (which the group agreed would be difficult) or to urge the Department of Social Welfare and Development to sign an agreement with the Department of Interior and Local Government to compel LGUs to hire only licensed social workers. This second option was also met with much pessimism among the others in the group because of budgetary implications at the local level.

In Indonesia, it is important to expand interdisciplinary collaboration. The challenge, however, is that the legal system is not child-friendly. They pointed to the New Zealand model where child advocates - not necessarily lawyers, but legal experts - work on behalf of children in the legal system. At present, child-friendly courtrooms exist only in a limited number of areas. The challenge is that there is a lack of community-based support services and a tendency for more institutional rehabilitation. Participants noted the Philippines model, in which there are local councils for the protection of children at provincial, municipal and village levels, and that this would be useful to consider. These councils are multi-sectoral, with participation of child representatives, NGOs, and local government agencies.

Group Five: Thailand and Vietnam

In the discussion about the enhancement of capacity of those who work with and for children, the first thing that the group noted was that Thailand and Vietnam are both using the multidisciplinary approach. So far, many initiatives have been conducted using this approach, particularly in Thailand.

In terms of trainings, many have been provided to those working for children and families. These include trainings for professionals like social workers, doctors and nurses, and police, and those who are para-professional. Training modules have included, for example, positive discipline, psychosocial treatment modules, and modules on juvenile justice and social work. Training-of-trainers workshops has also taken place, including pilot projects at the community level where the focus is on networks of authorities, families, and schools.

The group noted that there are many channels for disseminating information and materials, and for sharing experiences with others. They also noted the importance of developing codes of

conduct that are appropriate in the local context, which will help them to be more effective. One recommendation that the group agreed on is the need for more comprehensive training which includes child rights, child protection as well as child participation.

Where recovery and social reintegration services are concerned, it was underlined that this area is quite new for both countries. Thailand may be a bit more advanced on this issue, and presently case manager models are being piloted in local communities to do referrals and follow-up with victims of violence.

The main recommendations are that both countries can start with a mapping of the services in the area, produce clear guidance about the services, define the mandate for service providers, conduct needs assessments, develop reporting systems, and build the capacity of local authorities to provide recovery and social reintegration services. All of this should be developed through the national child protection bureau to ensure sustainability.

c) Session Three: Societal Behaviour Change

UN Study Overarching Recommendations relevant to this session:

- Recommendation 4: Promote non-violent values and awareness-raising
- Recommendation 9: Ensure accountability and end impunity

Session Three was opened by Ms. Amalee McCoy, Child Protection Consultant at UNICEF EAPRO. Amalee started by indicating that virtually all the Study Recommendations are in some way relevant to the issue of societal behaviour change. Recommendations 4 and 9 are particularly relevant yet, she noted, reported actions on promoting non-violence values and awareness-

raising, and on strengthening accountability and ending impunity, are weak across the region.

She indicated that countries should begin thinking about promoting societal behaviour change at the national level, rather than continuing to focus on one-time events and the promotion of IEC materials that are disconnected from a wider

long-term strategy. Behaviour change promotion through the education system, by inculcating key values and promotion of human rights, is one such action which has not been sufficiently undertaken. She challenged participants to

consider in a holistic sense whose behaviour should be targeted, and to ask themselves how children embrace cultural norms and ways in which these can be addressed through rights-based approaches.

Panel Presentations

Promoting non-violent values and awareness-raising

- *Ms. Iris Low, Child Rights Manager, Save the Children Fiji*

In her presentation, Ms. Iris Low explained that child protection faces a number of social attitude challenges in Fiji, notably that there simply is not a culture of child rights. She named the traditional belief that children are to "be seen and not heard" as an obstacle. Corporal punishment is typically only perceived as such if a cane or a belt is used, and pinching or pulling hair is not necessarily regarded as physical punishment. She also noted that the current political situation makes it difficult to ensure that reforms achieved on behalf of children are sustainable.

At present, corporal punishment is banned in schools, but physical punishment in the home is accepted. As a response to this type of challenge and as a member of the influential National Coordinating Committee on Children, Save the Children Fiji was asked to make a presentation to the Committee on positive discipline in which they could address physical punishment in the home. The public reaction to the social attitude change work by Save the Children Fiji has been mixed. There has also been a strong resistance by faith-based organisations, which are very influential in Fiji. Others have recognised the importance of non-violent discipline, and when the manual "Positive Discipline: What it is and how to do it" was launched, there were many requests for the book.

Save the Children Fiji launched a research report entitled Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children in Fiji⁹ in 2006. This research project gave children an opportunity to voice their feelings about corporal punishment. The research showed that children had started to think that hitting them was an acceptable form of punishment. The launch also proved a strong start to their three year campaign on violence against children. After the report was launched, Save the Children Fiji received complaints from parents about corporal punishment in schools.

Save the Children has conducted workshops on child protection, positive childrearing practices, as well as non-violent education in order to counter social attitudes. Iris cited three men who had participated in the workshops and observed changes in their communities or their own perceptions of corporal punishment and/or responsible parenting. She then pointed to other efforts to change attitudes towards rights, such as the incorporation of child rights into lessons at Lautoka Teachers College, though child rights are not yet fully incorporated into the curriculum. In addition, 'Kids Link Fiji' is an initiative by children for children which aims to promote awareness on child rights and strengthen children's abilities to protect themselves. She also mentioned the Mobile Playgroup Project Communities programme, in which parents and teachers are educated on child protection and non-violent discipline.

Overall, Save the Children Fiji endeavours to influence societal behaviour change through

⁹ Save the Children Fiji. *The Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children in Fiji: A Research Report*. Suva, Fiji. 2006.

awareness-raising and advocacy, by covering a wide spectrum of participants through workshops (including children), and through national consultations with children. Radio programmes have also been used as a conduit for awareness-raising, with shows on Save the Children's work against corporal punishment aired at tea time, when teachers are likely to tune in. Iris added that baseline research is also being conducted,¹⁰ with the specific purpose of investigating and provoking societal behaviour change. There is also an annual work plan for 2008 on child protection which is part of a five year NPA in collaboration with the Government of Fiji.

Strengthening Accountability and Ending Impunity

- *Dr. Berina Arslanagic-Ibisevic, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Mongolia*

Dr. Berina Arslanagic-Ibisevic began her presentation on 'Juvenile Justice Committees' by explaining that the objective of this programme was to align juvenile justice and the overall legal environment with the CRC. She specified that the strategies, whether on advocacy, law amendment, or capacity building, were all inter-linked and corresponded with the wider aim of improving the legal situation of children in conflict with the law. She noted that UNICEF is trying to tailor interventions to the Mongolian context as appropriately as possible.

She stated that last year, an advocacy group was created composed of high level officials, NGOs, and media representatives. The focus of the group is to promote a new juvenile offender system, which to date has used an institutional approach. She also cited the coordination of media and communication campaigns, and the training of law enforcement officials. Importantly, there

has also been a national assessment of the legal framework which was conducted to build an evidence base for lobbying purposes. She said that the assessment should give UNICEF and partners the tools to explain the rights and amendment goals to government counterparts. Berina also explained that UNICEF had also established a multi-disciplinary approach model in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and piloted Juvenile Justice Committees in three areas. Other achievements included advocacy activities with parliamentarians, who have responded positively and sought further involvement in the child protection advocacy group, as well as amendments to the Criminal Code. Also, the creation of a juvenile police unit has led to a decree which mandates that each police station should have a juvenile officer.

There is still a need for implementation guidelines due to the top-down political and social structure in Mongolia. The coming elections may also change the decision makers in government, which may slow down the work being done by UNICEF. Berina emphasised that the way forward was the launch of the legal report, the documentation of lessons learned and case studies, nationwide replication of the juvenile justice model, and endorsement of this model by decision makers.

Working Group Discussion

Questions:

For Session Three, each group was asked to discuss the most realistic ways of taking action on the following:

1. Promotion of non-violent values and awareness-raising on VAC amongst:
 - a. General public?
 - b. Men and boys?
 - c. Parents and guardians?

¹⁰ The baseline research being conducted is a joint research project between UNICEF and five Pacific Island countries.: Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. Started in January 2008, it is due to be finished in August 2008.

- d. Professionals, para- and non-professionals?
 - e. Policymakers?
- 2. Strengthening accountability and ending impunity through:
 - a. Building community confidence in the justice system?
 - b. Ensuring formal interventions and prosecutions are made according to the best interests of the child?
 - c. Bringing offenders to justice?

Session Three: Group Narrative Discussion

Social Welfare Change

Group One: Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

For the promotion of non-violent values and awareness-raising on VAC, the discussion began with New Zealand who explained that at the moment there is a strong emphasis on building awareness of child abuse with the community and the public so that they take on more responsibility to identify child abuse, refer appropriately, and work to prevent it. This is occurring through a public mass media campaign on television: called Violence - It's not OK. The first part of this campaign was focused on understanding family violence and the second stage was focused on perpetrators of family violence. Save the Children in New Zealand is working with Human Rights Communities, UNICEF, Peace Foundation, Global Education Centre, and the Ministry of Education to look at building human rights communities in education, although there is no funding for this at the moment. There is also a need in New Zealand to develop opportunities for positive parenting knowledge in the existing parenting courses. Government funds service providers to deliver parenting courses. There is also a need to incorporate parenting courses in mainstream education system as well as other initiatives such as the Roots of Empathy initiative.

In Kiribati, research on public attitudes and behaviour is necessary in order to determine why there is a lack of respect for child rights. There is also the need to identify channels of communications, to identify child protection

priorities, to establish partnerships with media (for example community radio) and to develop a communications strategy to influence behaviour change. Messages need to be channelled to each target group so the medium and messages are appropriate to the target audiences. There is an overall need to concentrate on educating the younger generations, since educating children is easier than adults. For Fiji, it was suggested to refer to the presentation given by Iris (p. 24). In Papua New Guinea, clearly violence against women is a huge issue. A five to ten year long term campaign against violence is required, but a strategy must be developed only after solid analysis.

For strengthening accountability and ending impunity, the group again began with New Zealand. It was explained that there is currently a review of the 1995 Domestic Violence Act, and that it is necessary to strengthen the accountability of perpetrators and extend provisions to protect victims of family violence. This would mean allowing police to arrest suspected perpetrators and detain them for 72 hours (the period whereby victims are at most risk of harm) when they respond to domestic violence reports and go to the location of the incident. Also, past convictions should be permitted to be heard at the most current court case; it also necessary to strengthen penalties for perpetrators who break bail conditions and to extend the range of

programmes provided to offenders. These would include, for example, drug and alcohol abuse programmes and parenting programmes which perpetrators and victims can participate in. In regard to child victims, provisions will be made that children in care arrangements must have access to specialists, such as child psychologists or specialised social workers. In general, there exists a good understanding of domestic violence issues in New Zealand and there is a government and NGO taskforce on domestic violence that determines and monitors the National Action Plan on Family Violence. Also, national campaigns focus on encouraging communities to report perpetrators of family violence and to advocate for children in their own areas.

In Kiribati, there is a need to concentrate on law enforcement since, as the effective application of the law helps to build public confidence. It is also necessary to strengthen the confidence of communities and families in juvenile justice systems through an effective law and monitoring system. Also required are amendments to the law so that everyone can refer or report cases of abuse and violence. Finally, there is a need to ensure that diversion systems are in place.

In Papua New Guinea, the issue of impunity is of significant importance, to the point whereby police can simply shoot people. Save the Children and UNICEF need to put impunity onto the international agenda. International financial institutions and the United Nations need to prioritise a justice system that is fair to children; if governments cannot comply with this priority, then donors should consider refusing funds. International human rights organizations need to more seriously address government corruption.

From this discussion emerged several action points. First, in relation to societal behaviour change, a good communication strategy must be based on solid analysis and research in order to be effective. Such a strategy needs to have a long-term focus and should concentrate on influencing children (the younger generation). In this regard, UNICEF and Save the Children need to collaborate and combine resources. Secondly, in relation to strengthening accountability and ending impunity, the suggestion is to demonstrate the financial cost of not investing in early intervention. Finally, a focus on enforcement of existing legal systems and through trying to harmonize these with international instruments and conventions will build the confidence of communities.

Group Two: Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Malaysia

In discussing the promotion of non-violent values and awareness-raising on VAC, the participants pointed to the need to educate the general public through street campaigns with pictures and public exhibitions (receiving signatures/endorsements from members of the public), writing articles to newspapers (and receiving expressions of interest subsequent to publishing), developing websites on the issue, and conducting a global and/or community campaigns on particular days (such as the Day of Action).

For reaching men and boys, a programme to prevent teens from bullying and violence in dating could be put in place. The challenge here is that men are generally more hesitant and are not motivated to participate because of the long

working hours, traditional beliefs, 'labelling' effect, etc. In order to reach parents and guardians, the group suggested positive parenting at an early stage, and developing the head-start programme - mobilizing parent volunteers with childrearing experiences to visit the parents-to-be - for early detection and problem identification.

Where professionals, para- and non-professional are concerned, the challenge is that sometimes professionals are unwilling to recognize or are unaware of the UN CRC. Thus, there is a need to develop guidelines for professionals on child protection in line with the CRC. It is also important to work closely with policy-makers, even if they are hard to convince.

To strengthen accountability and end impunity, the group discussed building community confidence in the justice system by focusing on awareness-raising, providing a wide range of penalties (for instance, "bind over orders", fines, community service orders, counselling,

imprisonment) and advocating for mandatory reporting to be implemented. To ensure that formal intervention and prosecutions are made according to the best interests of the child, a child protection system should be well established.

Group Three: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR and Mongolia

In terms of the promotion of non-violent values and awareness-raising on VAC, the members of Group Three agreed that any action should begin with raising the awareness at community and family level. At the same time, organizations should look for spokespersons. Such persons could be the Prime Minister, celebrities or influential monks who publicly say "no to violence against children." It is also possible to use the media to broadcast videos related to stopping violence against children. They also mentioned

the need to build the capacity of government staff, as well as to strengthen commitment and accountability in the government, since it has the authority to take action on this issue. There is also the need to promote self support groups and to promote the development of solutions by communities on violence against children. It is equally important to let children's voices be heard, for example, through participation in children's clubs.

Group Four: Indonesia and the Philippines

For their discussion on the promotion of non-violent values and awareness-raising on violence against children, the participants of Group Four underlined the importance of social marketing and corporate social responsibility (CSR). They stated that it would be useful to somehow make it appealing to corporate advertisers and advertising agencies to promote non-violent values. It is also important to react to what is in the media, such as the content of violent advertisements and shows. They mentioned the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board in the Philippines, and how this body brings attention to advertisements and shows promoting violence against children. Also, in the Philippines, UNICEF developed a behavioural change matrix as part of the national communication plan for its "Children Against Violence" campaign. The matrix shows the different target audiences and the specific strategies for information dissemination that will be employed for each audience. The strategies are categorized according to the

different settings identified in the UN Global Study on VAC.

The group noted that it is also important to integrate messages in current parent education programmes, such as by the Department of Social Welfare Development, and parent effectiveness sessions, perhaps through the Catholic Church's parent education classes.

In Indonesia, another problem is that violence is used in the name of sports and supporting teams. To work against this, it was suggested that educational public service announcements are conducted, and that a behaviour change assessment with multi-sectoral participation is implemented with particular emphasis on the involvement of men and boys. It would also be important to promote the value of non-violence with the religious sector (for example, the pesantren in Muslim communities in Indonesia) and to work with religious leaders. They

mentioned relevant studies by Azarra University in Cairo. They also noted the use of quotes from the Koran and other scriptures about loving and caring for children, which could help promote non-violent values. In addition, powerful messages from individuals who have changed their behaviour, such as the example from Fiji of a man who gave up drinking for his family, should also be compiled. It is also crucial to integrate child abuse prevention into the child-friendly schools model.

In discussing accountability and ending impunity, the group noted that the major issue is

enforcement and arresting perpetrators. Tribal courts and traditional justice systems may sometimes make this difficult. The reluctance to go through the justice system, due to corruption and its punitive nature, also needs to be addressed. At the same time, there is no point in building public trust in the justice system if the system is not functioning, lethargic, or unable to deliver. The participants noted that impunity is created because of non-reporting of incidences when the justice system is not doing what it should be doing. Therefore, there is a need to report instances when the justice system is not working.

Group Five: Thailand and Vietnam

In the discussion on promotion of non-violent values and awareness-raising on VAC, it was stated that the general public needs to be targeted through all forms of media, such as newspapers, TV, Internet, and radio. The group noted that they found that this is the most suitable way to reach the public.

In terms of men and boys, the groups underlined that awareness-raising shouldn't target only men and boys but women and girls as well. In particular, in Vietnam, children reported being beaten more by their mothers than their fathers. Awareness-raising for children through children's clubs and schools needs to be strengthened. For parents and guardians, trainings must also be increased, and it is important to develop parents' clubs or existing services (like hospitals), where parents can receive information on good parenting. In terms of professionals, para-

professionals and non professionals, trainings must take place for service providers but also for professionals from the private sector. Incorporation of the CRC, children's issues and non-violence issues in the curriculum of students and future professionals (such as for lawyers and teachers), is also necessary in Vietnam. Finally, policymakers must be presented with more evidence and should participate in organized field visits.

To strengthen accountability and end impunity, the group agreed that the approach should not be ad hoc and should be comprehensive. They suggested building networks within communities, greater use of the media, and improved coordination and skills-building among police and bar associations, so that children and parents are more confident in the judicial system.

Day One Feedback

Bruce then conducted a 'Horseshoe' exercise with the entire group. This exercise aimed to review the extent to which the day's discussions were provoking new ideas. For this exercise, all participants placed themselves along different points of a horseshoe shape in the room depending on how they perceived the meeting to be progressing. Participants then made observations about the day's discussions. The necessity of scaling up ideas to the national level was mentioned, as well as the need to upgrade the collaboration between UNICEF and Save the Children. They noted the importance of improving coordination amongst task forces working on child protection, and the benefit in using cost analysis as a lobbying tool. Finally, participants stressed that in general, child protection should not be event-based (related to an emergency or a large public event), and that advocacy on child protection should be strongly evidence-based.

Bruce also detailed four points which he himself felt were crucial points to address. Firstly, he noted the need to energise the government

focal points on VAC. UNICEF should do so by using its access to government, while Save the Children can mobilise NGOs to pressure governments to ensure protection of its citizens, including protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation. Moving governments into the driver's seat of the reform process is a key priority. Secondly, he stressed the necessity of ensuring that Save the Children and UNICEF refer to the same thing when they speak on child protection. It is critically important that both agencies have a mutual understanding on the concept of child protection. Bruce stressed as his third point the need to take opportunities to implement child protection at the national level. He explained that there are sometimes many NPAs on child protection which use limited data. He referred to the country presentation by the Philippines and underlined that NPAs should provide the opportunity for a coherent strategy to be conceptualised and developed. Finally, Bruce raised the point that there should be further sharing of information and good practices by clearing houses at the regional and country levels.

Recap

Ravi welcomed participants to Day Two of the Regional Meeting and proceeded immediately to review the agenda of the day. He drew attention to the importance of pulling the discussions from Day One together into clear recommendations

for action to be given at the end of Day Two. He stressed that it was absolutely essential that the day's discussions end with clear recommendations for realistic action.

d) Session Four: Cross-cutting Themes

UN Study Overarching Recommendations relevant to this session:

- Recommendation 4: Promote non-violent values and awareness-raising
- Recommendation 9: Ensure accountability and end impunity

As preparation for the day's discussions, Dominique led the participants through Recommendations 3, 7, 8, and 10. In particular, he stressed that in relation to Recommendation 7, not nearly enough is being done to give children and youth a voice. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of moving beyond simply consulting with children to developing a legal framework

which reflects the commitments of Article 12 of the CRC. He specified that Article 12 states that children have a legal right to express their opinions. Dominique also asked that participants refer back to the guidelines offered by Sawon the previous day regarding scaling up systems and services to the national level (Recommendation 8), rather than continuing with isolated initiatives.

Panel Presentations

Prioritizing Prevention

- Ms. Maria Victoria Juat, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Lao PDR

Ms. Maria Juat's presentation entitled Prioritizing Prevention of Violence against Children began with an explanation of the Lao PDR situation and context. She indicated that Lao PDR differs from other countries in the region due to its lower level of development, population density, and geographic location. She listed unsafe migration

and child labour as new issues that Lao PDR is grappling with, but old problems, such as unexploded mines, are still present. She also recalled that the government never submitted the completed questionnaire for the UN Study and that an official launch has not yet happened. At the same time, Vicky observed that there are positive developments, such as the introduction of certain provisions on violence against women into law and the creation of a comprehensive law on children's issues. In the end, however, the authorities tend to prioritize economic

development rather than social development. Vicky explained that one success was a 2007 study in which 600 children were interviewed. The study is completed but the government is still reviewing the report.¹¹ In response to the many child protection issues and in trying to promote prevention, UNICEF has supported various workshops, discussions and meetings, and has supported informal networks of professionals, such as lawyers, who can refer and manage cases. These informal networks function well but operate on a personal and volunteer basis, and are therefore not necessarily sustainable. She noted the small number of professionals and the lack of social workers. Vicky also mentioned that UNICEF conducts a lot of information dissemination relating to legislation, and targets legal professionals and law enforcement. She stressed the necessity of further advocacy to reach people of influence in the country.

Vicky further explained that child protection networks have been established in the same manner as in Cambodia, and that these networks have been legalised through the recent Children's Law. She said that there had been a slow start to the selection, training, and strengthening of these multi-sectoral child protection networks. UNICEF feels that child protection networks should be developed in each village, and aims to cover nine provinces scaling up from the current five. Maria also explained that UNICEF has supported the development of materials for young people in the Lao language, and has developed youth participation partnerships with NGOs such as Friends International. Through these programmes, youth have discussed violence against children. However, the youth radio programmes are reviewed by state authorities before they are allowed to air.

UNICEF intends to engage in high level advocacy to gain approval of the 2007 research on violence, and will thereafter advance dialogue with the government on the issue. Furthermore, in collaboration with Save the Children, UNICEF intends to conduct trainings on positive discipline. There are also plans to do an assessment with three ministries on the existing child protection monitoring system and to ensure that it is functional. Before concluding her presentation, Vicky cited plans to conduct trainings with teachers as part of creating child-friendly schools and to continue strengthening child protection networks.

Facilitating Children's Participation in National Actions against Violence

- *Ms. Wilma Banaga, Programme Officer, Save the Children Sweden in the Philippines*

Ms. Wilma Banaga began her presentation, entitled Facilitating Children's Participation in National Actions against Violence, by pointing out that youth participation was incorporated into the contribution by the Philippines to the UN Study¹² through consultations and meetings with youth. The same process has occurred with the development of the Filipino NPA on violence against children.

Wilma explained that those initiatives which had been led or initiated by children had much more energy and enthusiasm. She perceived that children wished to influence their immediate environment. The work conducted by the Children and Youth Organization (CYO) and the Active Youth Movement (AYM) allowed children to study the issues themselves and to share their

¹¹ Lao PDR Ministry of Education, Lao Women's Union, and UNICEF. *Research on Violence Against Children in Schools and Homes*, UNICEF 2007 (Important: this research has not been released as of March 2008)

¹² Save the Children UK. *Research on the Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children in the Philippines* Save the Children UK, 2005. This was a contribution to the Save the Children Sweden regional research on corporal punishment, which in turn was a contribution to the UN Global Study on Violence against Children.

experiences. One important outcome of this process was the 'Children's Manifesto,' which was included in the NPA.

Interestingly, Wilma noted, the children's views have sparked interest from adults and parents who wondered what they could do to support the children. An adult support group has in fact been established to provide regular backing to the children. Another positive outcome was that children started to be viewed by the media as resources in the communities. Children achieved greater community recognition and also became more aware of their rights.

Wilma also remarked that parents have sought information on alternative ways of disciplining children. She closed her presentation by stressing the importance of working at the community level in order to have a greater impact on the lives of children.

Question and Answer

Ms. Oh Sun-Young of Save the Children Korea directed the first question towards Wilma, asking whether parents felt threatened once children started to assert their rights. Wilma replied that the NGO which had run the project took this possibility into account from the beginning. The staff gave a lot of information to the parents ahead of time and during the process so that they did not feel unsure of what was happening. NGO staff also stressed to parents that they were always there to answer questions.

Guy then asked Vicky whether, in terms of promoting the prevention of violence, UNICEF was able to draw the link between economic development and child protection. Vicky replied that they had not realised the link between the goal of economic development and the situation of children in general. She also gave the example of how there used to be few street children in Vientiane, and that UNICEF had approached the government with research on their growing numbers. The government originally dismissed the issue, but as the problem grew, the issue was eventually recognised. A similar process

happened with the issue of trafficking. Maria concluded that UNICEF needs to constantly bring evidence to the government and to invest a lot of time in convincing them.

Working Group Discussion

Questions:

For Session Four, each group was asked to discuss the most realistic ways of taking action on the following:

1. Developing accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services at national and local levels, such as:
 - a. Child help-lines?
 - b. School- and community-based reporting mechanisms?
 - c. Confidential services for child complaint mechanisms in justice institutions?
2. Prioritizing prevention through:
 - a. Structural initiatives, through policy, law, educational reform and/or other national programmes (e.g. which address, for example, family breakdown, abuse of alcohol and drugs, reducing access to weapons, parent-child attachment)?
 - b. Individual surveillance for children particularly at risk of violence (e.g. community-based monitoring systems, social work visits for the purposes of monitoring)?
3. Ensuring child participation in prevention, response and monitoring of violence at national and local levels, such as:
 - a. National and local structures for institutionalized child participation?
 - b. Support for child-led organizations and networks?
 - c. Legal framework which takes into account children's views?

Session Four: Group Discussion Narrative

Cross-cutting Themes

Group One: Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

In discussing accessible child-friendly reporting, it was mentioned that in Kiribati it would be important to research the cost effectiveness of prevention in order to build an evidence base and to advocate for government to prevent violence against children. Meanwhile, in Fiji, an important action point is to facilitate and support the development of a national child protection policy. In Papua New Guinea, a child helpline will be established. Support will be provided to NGOs and government to document cases of abuse, and to use this information to inform a better response. Technical support will also be provided to the government in Papua New Guinea to develop a policy on child protection. In New Zealand, a review of the Domestic Violence Act is underway. Save the Children in New Zealand will advocate for an independent voice for children in the process and outcome. Also, the results of a study conducted on children in alternative care will provide opportunities to those working on child rights to advocate for effective reporting and the inclusion of children's voices in the process. Protocols are currently in place to monitor the protection of children in detention.

In terms of prioritizing prevention, it was stated that a reporting mechanism will be established in Kiribati. In Fiji and in Kiribati, based on the outcomes of baseline research, it will be possible to establish an effective response to violence against children. In Papua New Guinea, organisations will continue to produce resources for teacher education on child rights and to advocate for the Child Friendly Schools programme to be adopted as a national programme by the National Department of Education. In New Zealand, the national communication campaign on violence is currently

moving into its third phase. Save the Children will continue to feed into and resource the campaign. Save will focus on positive parenting and making the positive parenting booklet more child-friendly. Members of Parliament will also be trained on these issues.

In terms of child and youth participation, several suggestions were made. In Kiribati, it was suggested to involve youth, families, and communities in developing a reporting system. It was also said that there is a need to assess the cost effectiveness of prevention. In Papua New Guinea, it is necessary to continue to refine and expand the child participation programme and for Save the Children and UNICEF to collaborate on the implementation of the National Youth Policy. Meanwhile, Fiji has established a child participation mechanism. Save the Children will support children to develop a manifesto and to conduct a campaign on VAC and corporal punishment. The organisation will advocate for the filling of the vacant position of child and youth advocate within the Ministry of Social Affairs. In New Zealand, the focus will be on building the resource capacity to address poverty by promoting home equity schemes. Life skills for young people, such as on money management, will also be undertaken. Indigenous leaders will be more involved in national coalition groups and with government development of child protection messages, which are based on traditional customs that respect children do not practice violence. The private sector will be invited to help fund communication campaigns. Also, capacity building of youth and children's organisations will be undertaken using the Building Human Rights Communication and Education materials.

Group Two: Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Malaysia

For the development of accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services, Group Two first examined existing initiatives within their countries. They noted that in Hong Kong, there are services with professional social workers to respond to calls through a hotline, which receives 700 calls per year. In South Korea, through the 40 child protection centres, there is a special hotline for referrals and children are encouraged to call themselves. There is also a national monitoring system of calls. The centre comprises both volunteer counsellors and professionals and the centre is connected to the police and social workers for follow up. The Korean representatives also mentioned that they would like to link to Child Helplines International, but the government will not permit this initiative. Meanwhile, in Japan, the Ministry of Justice has a hotline but it is underused by children and not well promoted.

The group then discussed prioritising prevention, pointing to the data collection and surveillance system in Thailand. They mentioned that in South Korea are some campaigns on preventing corporal punishment in schools, while in Japan, prevention is focused on serious cases of abuse, rather than corporal punishment. Physical checks are conducted on young children when they go for vaccinations or school medical exams.

The group also discussed ensuring child participation, and again the participants explained the situation in each of their respective countries. In Hong Kong, there is the programme "Kids Dream" which is a very active youth participation group. Youth are able to discuss and debate child rights issues at national level and among peers. The government established a special forum for children and young people to lobby and present their views on child rights. In Japan, the concerns voiced were regarding how to protect children when they participate. The issue itself is sensitive and exposes children when they speak out. In Korea, participation is very tokenistic, usually by simply inviting children to launch events and not involving elected child representation. For the National Committee for Children, children are selected by the government and these children are not representative of all Korean children. In Malaysia, the right to freedom of speech remains limited and participation efforts are somewhat tokenistic. The group came to the overall conclusion that governments can manipulate children into becoming propaganda tools, with few processes that help individual children to develop their own capacity. NGOs have to lead the way in promoting this.

Group Three: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR and Mongolia

Group Three discussed how youth and child participation should simply be more vigorous and that national level initiatives to involve youth need to be consolidated. They spoke of the need to conduct training and capacity building with government officials, as well as with other NGOs to enable them to achieve meaningful child participation in planning processes. In the

discussion, the group also remarked on the need for dissemination of and training on the Save the Children manuals on positive discipline. In terms of collaboration, they stressed mapping, research, information sharing, workshops and training, monitoring and evaluation and overall better relations as areas where Save the Children and UNICEF could improve.

Group Four: Indonesia and the Philippines

When Group Four discussed child-friendly reporting systems, they pointed to the need to broaden geographic accessibility of existing help lines, such as 117 and 163 in the Philippines and 129 in Indonesia, and the importance of making these help lines toll free. They suggested making them accessible via mobile phones, working in partnership with corporate sectors and by promoting corporate responsibility. There is a need to work on access for indigenous communities and ethnic groups, as well as to set up child-friendly and non-threatening help lines and reporting systems. This could be done by strengthening peer-to-peer support, for instance, through child-initiated help lines. Overall, it is important to provide sufficient support and protection for children who are reporting their experiences of violence.

School-based monitoring and reporting mechanisms are equally important. They need to be built into the child-friendly school concept and piloted in model schools. It would also be helpful to use the research results on VAC in schools to lobby the Education Department, mainly for the inclusion of mandatory reporting in the terms of reference of school governing bodies and for the development of protocols on mandatory reporting. It is also vital to develop reporting mechanisms through community health centres and other existing mechanisms at the village level. The use of other technologies (such as cell phone text messaging) should be explored, as mobile phone

reminders and notices can encourage reporting and the usage of help lines.

In prioritizing prevention, the group mentioned that systems and processes for identifying children and families who are at risk should ensure that children labelled “at risk” are not stigmatized. They also underlined strengthening community involvement in setting up and making surveillance systems operational (especially in identifying risk indicators). They suggested engaging faith-based organisations to influence violent or potentially violent practice; for example, on substance abuse among parents. There is also a need to identify role models in communities and to organise them in support networks for adults/ parents. More comprehensive support to families who are at risk is crucial, such as in the form of livelihood and skills development, parenting seminars, literacy tutorials, and health service referrals, alongside support to children. However, the challenge is to institutionalise good practices from non-government initiatives.

In terms of child participation in prevention and response, the group suggested strengthening children’s capacity to report. They also pointed to the involvement of children in national and local planning processes, such as in village development planning and NPA development, as well as in the formulation of child participation indicators.

Group Five: Thailand and Vietnam

Regarding accessible and child-friendly reporting systems, it was noted that in Vietnam there is good cooperation between UNICEF and Save the Children. However, the juvenile justice system is still very weak. Children can seek legal assistance through this system, but in reality very few children utilize these services. Part of

the problem is that few children know about the system. Where counselling centres for children are concerned, the problem is that they are only in the cities and are not accessible to children in rural areas. They need to be expanded to the communal level. Another suggestion is that competent social workers be placed in each

commune and in schools. There also needs to be government support for the development of curricula for social work training. Presently in Vietnam, there is a pilot hotline project being organized by the Ministry of Public Health for children and women victims of violence, but it is only operating in Hanoi.

In Thailand, a reporting system is available but it needs to be promoted in order to be more child-friendly, more effective, and more accessible. It should be made more accessible by building the capacity of government staff who are in charge of the system. In general, government help lines are available but are ineffective since no real assistance is provided. In contrast, help lines for children by NGOs are more accessible and child-friendly, but there is not enough funding and qualified staff to take care of all cases.

The recommendations made to counter these challenges are to advocate that the government identifies an agency to manage all the existing help lines. Also, there needs to be promotion of the existing reporting system in addition to making it more child-friendly, more effective, and more accessible. Commitment from the government is also needed in terms of funding.

To increase the quality of existing reporting systems in schools, it is necessary to support child rights centres organized by children in schools, as a mechanism for case reporting. These should be linked to the official system, and assistance to the children involved could be provided by teachers. Also, there should be efforts to support peer education on child rights, reporting, and on how to contact social workers.

In terms of prioritizing prevention, Group Five made several recommendations. For Vietnam, the group stated that peer education to disseminate prevention information is necessary so that children who are difficult to reach, such as street children, can access such information. Another suggestion was that networks be developed in every commune, and that these networks - involving police, legal professionals, education professionals and others in the community - assist in counselling and the reporting of cases. It is also important in Vietnam to strengthen civil society, especially local associations which involve children in work on prevention. The group also suggested the capacity building of government officers at the local level, so that the services for children are effectively available and incorporate children's views. In Thailand, it was suggested that child rights volunteers at the community level place more emphasis on child protection and speak out more about the reporting system. For both countries, it was suggested that teacher training curricula include content on child development and positive discipline.

For child participation in prevention, response and monitoring of violence, the group spoke of the need to advocate for legal reform to incorporate children's views. Awareness-raising in the classroom for students to create a network of students who can recognize symptoms of abuse was also put forward. Another suggestion on child and youth participation was the undertaking of a preliminary step to assess existing laws relevant to children's issues, which could include the necessity of amending legislation so that child participation is a necessary component of planning and implementation.

e) Session Five: The Way Forward

Sawon and Dominique then introduced Sessions Five and Six. Sawon observed that much had been shared, but that the afternoon would now focus on actions for moving forward. Sawon encouraged participants to challenge conventional wisdoms. She noted that many trainings have been conducted, which are acceptable so long as they are done properly and truly build the knowledge and skills of participants. Sawon also promoted self-reflection with regards to evidence-based research. What is it, she asked, that we not doing right? At the same time, she asked participants to point out not what they are unable to do, but why they are unable to do it.

Dominique then stated his agreement with Sawon, pointing to the need for follow-up to the UN Study to focus on action. He pointed out that we often talk about obstacles but rarely about how to overcome them. He emphasised that organisations like Save the Children and UNICEF can act jointly and show governments what can be achieved at the national level. He also asked that participants make realistic plans and establish concrete action points.

Ravi led the participants through a guided meditation as preparation for their final deliberations. During the meditation exercise, he asked participants to visualise 2010 and to picture themselves celebrating the success

of their achieved child protection goals. The participants were supposed to “recall” and “reflect” on what these were and how it is they got to the point where they were celebrating their success.

Following this exercise, Amalee instructed the groups to discuss two to three realistic action points per session area which can be implemented in the next two years. She placed emphasis on thinking outside the box and asked participants to consider how UNICEF and Save the Children can better collaborate.

Working Group Discussion

Questions:

For Session Five, each group was instructed to discuss and agree upon the following questions:

1. 2-3 realistic key action points which can be achieved in the next 2 years in the four areas you have discussed:
 - a. National policy and legal systems
 - b. Social welfare systems
 - c. Societal behaviour change
 - d. Cross-cutting themes
2. How can UNICEF and Save the Children collaborate in achieving these actions at the national level?

Working Group Presentations

Group One: Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

National Policy and Legal Systems

For Kiribati, there needs to be a national consultation on the UN Study as well as a translation of the key recommendations. Kiribati also needs to review the current laws relating to children and to undertake a legal reform process. Papua New Guinea intends to review legislation and promote legal reform in addition to developing a National Child Protection Policy. Fiji also sees the development of a National Child Protection Policy and a legal review as the ways forward. Meanwhile, in New Zealand, there will be continuous advocacy for putting children on the political agenda through child impact reporting and the cross party caucus.

Social Welfare Systems

In New Zealand, there will be work with leading parenting education bodies to further develop the Positive Parenting Resource and to integrate and promote current child welfare systems. The country also aims to work with ECPAT International to support training for care professionals and agencies in order to prevent child abuse.

Efforts will be dedicated toward increasing capacity building for those working with and for children in Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Fiji. Also, in Papua New Guinea and Fiji, there are plans for the formulation and implementation of a child protection policy for those working with and for children. In Papua New Guinea, 12 family support centres will be established.

Societal Behaviour Change

In Papua New Guinea, a five year campaign will be developed to address commercial sexual exploitation of children and corporal punishment. In New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, societal behaviour change will be encouraged through integrating child rights in education. In all four countries, there will be efforts to support child- and youth-led campaigns on violence against children.

Cross-cutting Themes

In Fiji, the way forward will be to advocate for the reinstatement of the a Child and Youth Advocate within the Ministry of Social Welfare, while in New Zealand, the focus will be to develop and implement an Indigenous Human Rights Policy on child protection. In all four countries, there will be the promotion of traditional approaches to non-violent child rearing.

UNICEF and Save the Children Collaboration

In New Zealand, this collaboration will focus on advocacy for the government to acknowledge and implement the UN Study Recommendations and place pressure on the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General once he or she is in place. In Papua New Guinea, the two organizations will collaborate on a societal behaviour change campaign and will begin to advance legal reform. In all four countries, a template for reporting to the Special Representative to the UN Secretary General will be developed for UNICEF and Save the Children, while designated officers from each organisation will collate the information.

Group Two: Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and Malaysia

National Policy and Legal Systems

All countries agreed that there needs to be a policy to eliminate corporal punishment in all settings, including in the family, which is one major gap. There also needs to be a nationally-agreed definitions of the different types VAC. This would facilitate work between organisations and individuals working in child protection. There also needs to be a review of current legislation. National policies on child protection need to be developed and a commission must be established to follow up on action taken on violence against children.

Social Welfare Systems

An intentional injury and death database focusing on all children, not only infants, needs to be established, as often these are recorded simply as accidents. This must be followed by better investigative procedures and a strengthened response system. Furthermore, the social welfare

system should adopt a more rights-based approach, rather than a needs-based approach. All organisations should promote increased budget allocations toward social welfare issues.

Societal Behaviour Change

The four countries concurred that they should involve the corporate sector in not only obtaining funding assistance and volunteers but also in developing policies. They would also like to better utilize media tools for societal behaviour change, particularly articles, TV, and public petitions.

Cross-cutting themes

As stated many times earlier, mandatory reporting systems need to be implemented. The promotion of child participation in all child protection work should be based on rights-based principles, and organizations need to strive for representative, independent, and active participation of children.

Group Three: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR and Mongolia

National Policy and Legal Systems

To support changes in national policies and legal systems, the four countries agreed that there needs to be evidence-based research, comprehensive legal analyses, and systematic reviews of NPAs. A child protection task force authorized by the government at a high level also must be instituted in order to facilitate dialogue and rapid legal change. It is also important to promote the enforcement of existing laws through awareness-raising.

Social Welfare System

To improve social welfare systems, child protection networks need to be strengthened at the grass-roots or village level. These networks must be able to conduct referrals, monitoring and reporting. Efforts will be made to also engage in capacity building by using standardized curricula and materials. This would be authorized by both government and academia and will target

community-level care givers such as teachers and social workers.

Societal Behaviour Change

In order to foster societal behaviour change, an inter-agency communication plan needs to be developed. This will be supported by the identification of key public figures to influence both the public and the government.

Cross-cutting Themes

The four countries agreed that more vigorous child participation is necessary, for example, through a national-level youth advisory group and children's councils. Capacity building through life skills training and the empowerment of government and NGO counterparts is also an essential part of achieving meaningful child participation. A positive discipline dissemination strategy is also essential, and different children's groups need to be identified and involved in the dissemination of messages on VAC.

Group Four: Indonesia and Philippines

National Policy and Legal System

In the Philippines, a two-year action plan needs to be developed with the government and civil society groups, while in Indonesia a means for identifying common priorities must be created. Also in Indonesia, there needs to be an expansion of the networks that already exist and increased lobbying for the adoption of the draft NPA.

Social Welfare Systems

In both countries, it is necessary to promote the adoption of a child protection policy and code of conduct amongst both government and advocacy groups. There also must be a review of existing codes of conduct. For both countries, it is important to use cost analysis for child protection in order to secure government commitment.

Societal Behaviour Change

In the Philippines, a behaviour change communication plan is to be discussed among partners within the VAC network. Colleagues in Indonesia will use this experience to develop a plan of their own. Also in Indonesia, efforts will be made to work with religious groups in order to foster societal attitude change.

Cross-cutting themes

Both countries agreed that child help lines must be made more widely accessible, child-friendly, and non-threatening. This can be done through geographical expansion, engagement with telecommunications networks, making help lines toll-free, and the implementation of mandatory reporting by school governing bodies. Another agreed action is to strengthen children's participation in advocacy and lobbying networks.

Group Five: Thailand and Vietnam

National Policy and Legal Systems

Both countries agreed that national child protection systems must be supported through strong evidence building, the amendment of specific laws, and workshops on child protection. Efforts must be made to advocate for a single responsible government agency, particularly in Thailand, while child participation also needs to become institutionalized in Vietnam.

Social Welfare Systems

Community-based child protection networks need to be strengthened and supported by good practice dissemination, the establishment of counselling services, comprehensive social work strategies (such as curriculum development and codes of conduct), adoption of a case management model, and an increase in the number of social workers.

Societal Behaviour Change

The main suggested action by both countries was to develop a campaign on the elimination of VAC in collaboration with government and the media. This campaign should have an impact evaluation component.

Cross-cutting themes

Both countries agreed that it is essential to work toward a centralized child-friendly reporting system. This could be based on recommendations by a children's forum, which would help to incorporate children's ideas into the existing system. It is also important to include positive discipline and child development in teaching training curriculum.

In Thailand, it is also necessary to support and strengthen the National Council for Youth and Child Development, and to encourage the Council to discuss child protection issues with the government.

f) Session Six: Synthesis and Closing

Synthesis

- *Mr. Dominique Pierre Plateau, Regional Manager - Child Protection, Save the Children Sweden*

Dominique began his synthesis of the meeting by remarking that all groups made very action-oriented comments and very objective suggestions. He then highlighted common areas of concern and actions to be taken which had emerged from Sessions One through Five.

Dominique noted that the first clear imperative to emerge is the review of legislation and the identification of gaps with respect to child protection. All the groups noted that this entails support for stronger and more efficient law enforcement in relation to these laws. Another striking feature of the discussions was the urgency of social behaviour change, particularly the need for long term communication strategies on violence. Dominique also remarked that a number of donors would be happy to support initiatives of this kind, and he encouraged country participants to submit such proposals. He underlined that for this kind of action, it is important that our organisations work in collaboration to achieve greater impact.

In relation to social welfare systems, he noted that there was greater diversity amongst the action points made. In terms of cross-cutting themes, Dominique noted a recurrent call for greater child and youth participation in all the work conducted. He observed that from personal experience, there is a willingness from governments to facilitate this but they truly need help from organisations like Save the Children and UNICEF.

Dominique further highlighted the call for help lines and pointed to his experience with Child

Helpline International. He stated that he thought this is something that will increasingly develop in the future, and he encouraged country representatives to call meetings with key actors involved in help lines and to think strategically about their involvement.

He concluded by observing that there are many more useful and concrete action points and recommendations that had emerged,¹³ and thanked the participants for their active collaboration.

Priorities and Next Steps

- *Ms. Sawon Hong, Regional Advisor for Child Protection, UNICEF EAPRO*

Sawon thanked the participants for their contributions over the previous two days and said that the discussions had been extremely informative and fruitful.

Regarding the identified action points, she reminded participants to also include, where possible, a timeline for implementation. Also, she asked those offices present to try to involve non-UNICEF and non-Save the Children colleagues in the work that they do, as it is impossible to achieve anything substantive without them. It is therefore crucial to incorporate our work into their action plans and to involve them in our joint efforts.

Sawon then explained that what UNICEF EAPRO and the regional Save the Children Office can commit to at the regional level is:

- Provide support on how the two organizations handle regional communication strategies. Work will be done at the national level, of course, but it will be necessary to reflect this regionally.

¹³ Refer to the Meeting Output Document for the complete listing.

- Provide support in terms of capacity building. She invited everyone to challenge themselves by asking how we develop our own capacity, and whether we as organizations are actually qualified to advise governments on technical child protection issues.
- Joint collaboration to ensure that advocacy and communication takes place at the regional level. The Special Representative to the Secretary General is being appointed and this will revive the issue of violence against children, which is where the regional offices can come in.
- Monitoring of progress, including the actions that all participants have promised to do.

Sawon then made a final recapitulation of the two days of discussions, bringing attention to the values which we stated as key to our individual child protection work on the first day. These are essential to keep in mind in order to maintain inspiration. She also underlined that some of the Study recommendations have been implemented and that the child protection community has in fact done well despite the difficulties faced.

However, there remain two areas in which we have not done well. Children's participation is one of them. She questioned whether children are really always comfortable in participating and asked participants to bear this in mind when involving children in their programmes.

Also, actions on societal behaviour change are still very abstract. Sawon stated that this area is another major impediment to other progress made. For instance, without the necessary behaviour change to implement the legal provisions we advocate for, our efforts will not make an impact.

Final Remarks and Closing

- *Mr. Herluf Madsen, Regional Representative, Save the Children Sweden*

Prior to the closing remarks, participants gathered together in a circle and were each given a rose.

Mr. Herluf Madsen remarked that it had been wonderful to hear and learn about all the discussions that had taken place throughout the meeting. He noted being impressed by the energy of the meeting and the quality of the suggestions. He referred back to the values which had been cited at the very beginning of the meeting, explaining that one of them - commitment - would be needed to take all the action points forward. He thanked all the participants for two days of rewarding discussions and explained that the meeting symbolized a new philosophy of collaborative work between Save the Children and UNICEF. The meeting is a landmark event in that it was the first regional meeting of its kind between Save the Children and UNICEF. He also noted the need to involve other actors to make sure that resources are there to take forward the work. He concluded by thanking everyone for their participation and for devoting their time to the discussions.

Ravi read out all the values that had been cited at the beginning of the meeting before thanking Sawon and Dominique for the opportunity to facilitate the meeting. He explained that the reason that everyone had been given a flower was so they could exchange their rose with five other people in the room. This would be a sign of appreciation for those colleagues with whom they had not had time to get to know during the meeting.

IV. Meeting Output Document

Action Points to Take Forward the Recommendations of the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children in the East Asia and Pacific Region

Representatives of Save the Children and UNICEF in the East Asia and Pacific region adopt the following actions to be implemented as part of the collective efforts by international organisations, NGOs, governments and civil society entities to take forward the Overarching Recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children. The stated action points and suggestions are set for implementation within a two year time period, with completion anticipated by 2010.

The following action points, which are listed out under the three main areas of intervention (National Policy and Legal Systems, Social Welfare Systems, Societal Behaviour Change, and cross-cutting themes), were identified by participating countries as priorities across the region. Country- and context-specific action points are also delineated.

National Policy and Legal Systems

Recommendation One: Strengthen national and local commitment and action

It is essential to develop a framework for action on violence against children which integrates, or is capable of integrating, other national plans of action related to child protection (such as those NPAs on child labour or commercial sexual exploitation of children). Such a framework must ensure effective coordination across all relevant government agencies and departments, and involve relevant civil society organizations. This coordination includes constant sharing of information and resources as well as regular and systematic discussion in order to foster stronger relations and networks between ministries. It is also critical that such a framework is realistic, time-bound, and clearly delineates responsible agencies. Where possible, any new national plans of action developed in a country should build

upon existing national plans and child protection mechanisms.

A focal person or focal government agency on violence against children must be appointed by government with clearly articulated responsibilities and sufficient resources to implement recommendations made. Monitoring and evaluation of child protection national plans must be included in the focal point's mandate. As part of monitoring and evaluation, child impact assessments of government policies should be made by the focal point to ensure that the consequences of new policies and action plans are fully understood.

Where no such focal point is currently in place, child rights organisations and concerned government agencies will lead advocacy initiatives and pressure government to appoint one. Ideally, the appointed focal point must rank sufficiently high in the government hierarchy to ensure coordination across government ministries and departments, and to sustain political will on addressing violence against children.

Frameworks and national plans of action to address violence against children must use clear definitions of child abuse and violence against children, as well as a shared understanding of the concepts of child protection and child protection systems. These definitions must be agreed on as soon as possible in order to streamline joint efforts by collaborating child rights agencies, and to avoid any conceptual or mandate-related confusion amongst stakeholders.

Recommendation Two: Prohibit all violence against children

In countries where it has not yet been done, a comprehensive review of existing laws and legislation as they relate to child rights and child protection is absolutely necessary. This must be

undertaken to identify where child rights-related legislation fails to meet the standards set in international conventions, particularly the CRC, but also the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. As stated in the Overarching Recommendations of the UN Study, legal review and reform must aim to align legislation with the right to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel and degrading forms of punishment as per General Commitment No. 8 (2006) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

An explicit framework of law and policy must specify the prohibition of violence in all contexts and settings. In light of the acceptance of physical punishment of children in some settings (such as the home), but its prohibition in others (such as schools), it is crucial that legislation specifically prohibits violence in all settings. Such legislation must be reinforced by clear public campaigning on the prohibition and unacceptability of violence in all settings, including schools, the home, care centres, aid centres, or institutions.

Recognising that the prohibition of violence can only be fully achieved if applied systematically by authorities, child rights organisations and government authorities must continuously press law enforcement officials to apply laws relating to violence against children. Legislation on violence against children must also be made known to all relevant duty-holders, from those in regular and close contact with children, such as teachers, to those at the policy-making level.

The prohibition of all forms of violence against children needs to be made known amongst children and youth in a manner that is accessible and understandable to them, and in a way which encourages the assertion of their rights. Similarly, efforts to educate families and communities on the rights of children, such as regarding harmful traditional practices and alternatives which exist to corporal punishment, must be undertaken to promote non-violent environments for children.

Recommendation 11: Develop and implement systematic national data collection and research efforts

Regular review and assessment of the impact of any government policy relating to the wellbeing of children must be undertaken to ensure that changes and amendments are possible and timely (also see Recommendation One).

The collection of data on the situation of children needs to be systematic and regular. Furthermore, data collection and research efforts must fit the national or central system in order to better inform national child protection programming and to maximise the relevance of child protection programming to all children. Where different data collection systems exist at the country level, it is important to consolidate these data collection systems. It is also crucial to develop, standardize and use common in-take forms for children receiving care or assistance of any kind.

Data collection systems need to be disaggregated and provide information on quality of care in order to better inform policy and programming. Government must commit to the strengthening of civil registration systems, so that birth, death and marriage data registries have nationwide coverage and are able to capture minority and migrant populations, including the stateless and foreign citizens. There must also be systematic data collection on children in institutional care and in the criminal justice system. Systematic investigations and data collection pertaining to injuries sustained by children are also critical, as well as the establishment a child death database at the country level.

A national research agenda on violence against children across settings also must be a part of government policy, with particular attention placed on vulnerable groups of children. Research on the situation of children must, like other areas of intervention, incorporate views and opinions of youth and children, and seek their active participation.

Recommendation 12: Strengthen international commitment

Where only decrees or signatures have taken place to in relation to an international convention, such as the CRC, governments must pursue the ratification process. Relevant child protection agencies must publicly advocate for immediate full ratification by the government. While the CRC remains the central commitment, states must also ratify the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2002) and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2002). All reservations which are incompatible with the spirit and purpose of the Convention and its Protocols must be withdrawn.

Social Welfare Systems

Recommendation Five: Enhance the capacity of all azzwho work with and for children

It is essential that standardized and approved education and training curricula be developed for professionals, para-professionals, and non-professionals who work with and for children and families. This training must be not only compulsory but relevant to professional sectors and positions. In addition, governments, international organizations and NGOs must provide regular professional training opportunities to disseminate new child protection practices, results of pilot child protection projects and programmes, and new skills training. Agreed standards to guide such training should also be agreed, both nationally and internationally. As part of this training and/or education curricula, support should also be provided to professional bodies and NGOs to formulate codes of conduct and clear standards of practice.

Furthermore, there is a need for more comprehensive education and training that includes child rights, child protection, and child participation altogether. Such courses and modules should be provided to enhance the capacity of those who work for and with children, regardless of whether or not they are professionals in social welfare. While it is crucial

to capacitate those working directly with children, minimum knowledge/training must also be provided to those at the higher levels of relevant ministries in order to encourage responsibility and interest in preventing violence against children. Reporting of child abuse of any kind must be made absolutely mandatory in all relevant professions and workplaces (schools, hospitals, social services offices, and police departments). Furthermore, clear procedures for reporting and case handling must be developed to ensure reported cases are dealt with appropriately and in a timely manner.

Recommendation Six: Provide recovery and social reintegration services

Recovery and social reintegration must build upon existing local systems, such as community-based child protection networks, in order to be effective. These must be scaled up to national level and supported by policy. To this end, a mapping of existing services must be conducted which assess health and social services, including pre-hospital and emergency care, as well as legal assistance for child victims of violence. These services must be gauged as to whether they are universal, accessible, and child-sensitive.

Ideally, trained professionals or trained key persons in local networks will be able to provide recovery and social reintegration support to children who are victims of abuse, as well as serve as an advisory focal point for children's rights and issues in the community. Where possible and appropriate, multi-disciplinary teams and structures must be put in place to assist with recovery and social reintegration services. Procedures for handling cases of child abuse must undergo regular review and strengthening. Similarly, where child protection networks and services do exist - whether formally or informally - it is necessary to standardize in-take forms and case procedures to ensure that recovery can be followed, monitored, and recorded.

While adult support in recovery and social reintegration is essential, youth or peer support can be crucial in delivering these types of

services. Accordingly, appropriate youth and peer networks should be organised and encouraged to support recovery and social reintegration, and provided with assistance and oversight by trained adult professionals.

Societal Behaviour Change

Recommendation Four: Promote non-violent values and awareness-raising

In seeking to stimulate social behaviour change, it is important to promote non-violent environments for children, remove harmful gender or group stereotypes, and inform target groups of the consequences of violence against children. The development of effective communication strategies must start from in-depth research and analysis. Moreover, communication strategies should be long-term and target-specific in order to stimulate long-lasting behaviour change. Ideally, any such communication strategy should have the strong support of government and be conducted with appropriate media channels and personnel to maximise reception by the target audience. Communications and campaigns on corporal punishment should target both genders, as both fathers and mothers can be involved in the physical punishment of children. Information on good parenting models and practices must be made readily available and accessible through appropriate and effective channels (such as via nurses and midwives who necessarily have contact with parents and future parents).

Societal behaviour change towards violence against children must be encouraged at both the national and local levels. An important way of doing this is through national education systems. As the most influential institution with direct contact with children, the national education system can affect change both in the lives of children and in the lives of future parents. Therefore, child rights and protection issues, such as self-protection skills and positive parenting, must be addressed through national education structures.

It is also critical to draw on the expertise of social

marketing agencies and engage in the corporate social responsibility dialogue to further provoke societal behaviour change. Ideally, corporate advertisers and important media channels should be used to extend messages about violence against children and its consequences, as these have increasing reach into children's lives in all countries. Messages of this kind must include the voice of children. Participation of children in public messaging on violence against children is essential in order to be effective and relevant.

Recommendation Nine: Ensure accountability and end impunity

Child rights organizations should employ cost analysis as a method for pressuring governments, and should be able to demonstrate the social and financial costs of not investing in early intervention. Furthermore, governments must increase internal accountability as well as that of its populace by pursuing offenders - regardless of their social, economic or political status - and applying legislation in a consistent and just manner. The government and civil society organizations must also promote appropriate treatment for perpetrators of violence in order to minimize the risk of re-offending. Appropriate responses will further boost local and national confidence in the ability of government to provide protection to those citizens who need it most. Governments and relevant agencies should also take special care to inform local populations of existing laws, penalties, and mandatory reporting mechanisms in an effort to further affect societal behaviour change. Such information must be available in simple and clear language, and should be available in ethnic minority languages and to those who are illiterate.

Conversely, there must be increased public pressure and targeted capacity building efforts with government agencies and personnel on preventing violence against children, in order to instil greater government accountability and political will. There should also be regular advocacy by child rights organisations to bring government procedures and existing legislation in line with internationally agreed standards and conventions, with particular

emphasis on ensuring the best interests of the child. Government procedures which especially require close scrutiny include court processes for interviews and examinations, investigations, witness-preparation and protection, and legal support for children and families. Furthermore, laws, frameworks and programmes which aim to combat corruption and promote good governance should also be linked to such advocacy and capacity building initiatives.

When and where possible, figures of high public standing should be engaged to advocate for and publicize child protection issues. In addition, public campaigns on children's issues should be planned and executed with the participation of youth and children.

Cross-cutting Themes

Recommendation Three: Prioritize prevention

Government prioritization of preventing violence against children must focus on addressing both immediate risk and underlying causes. International organizations and civil society entities must engage in advocacy, and incorporate into their own prevention programmes issues such as family breakdown, parent-child attachment, alcohol and drug abuse, and access to weapons. Underlying causes and contributing factors such as gender inequality, ethnic and class discrimination, poverty, lack of awareness or respect for human rights, corruption, and lack of social responsibility, are challenges which must be addressed through concerted and comprehensive cross-sector efforts.

The establishment of appropriately resourced child-friendly help lines and hotlines is an integral part of developing a functional child protection system and prioritizing the prevention of violence against children. These must be established at the country level, and if already established, examined and reviewed to ensure efficiency. These help lines and hotlines should fulfil advisory and prevention purposes, as well as allow for case reporting. Hotlines and help lines must be

made accessible to adults and families as well as children.

Life skills training programmes as well as child rights awareness workshops and forums need to be made available to children at the local level as a form of prevention of violence against children. By fostering assertion of rights and promoting non-violent values, these contribute to the prevention of violence against children. Similarly, regular and adequate youth participation in both local and national level forums on issues affecting children should be promoted.

Baseline research that establishes which children and families are at-risk of violence against children should be conducted systematically to guide both government and NGOs in taking preventative actions. This should be linked to national data collection and research (Recommendation 11), so that the information can be centrally stored and effectively used for programme and policy planning on violence against children.

Recommendation Seven: Ensure the participation of children

The active participation of children and youth is crucial to developing systems, mechanisms, and programmes which are genuinely relevant to the problems and violence they face. Violence against children can be better understood and combated at both the local and national levels if children participate in its description and the design of solutions.

Therefore, in addition to building into domestic legislation the legal right for children and youth to express their opinions and views freely, there must be mechanisms to ensure that these opinions are incorporated into strategies to prevent violence against children. These mechanisms can take several forms but should build on existing structures, such as local youth associations, school-based child rights organisations, or national forums and councils for youth. Campaigns and manifestos by and for children which focus on the prevention and unacceptability of violence should be encouraged

and supported by both government structures and child rights organisations. The latter are particularly useful in promoting ownership and assertion of child rights, as well as in encouraging further child-led initiatives to prevent violence against children.

Children's participation in child protection programming must be vigorous and systematic, and national-level youth advisory groups must be consolidated to ensure that this happens. Child and youth involvement in national and local level planning processes should be supported by the use of child participation indicators in order to measure the level of youth involvement from year to year, and also from location to location.

Recommendation Eight: Create accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services

The creation of accessible, efficient, functional and child-friendly reporting systems is an integral part of eliminating violence against children, and connects to several of the above suggestions.

Mechanisms such as hotlines and help lines provide important means for children to access support and for both children and adults to report violence. Such hotlines and help lines should not only be confidential and well-publicized, but they must be made accessible geographically, financially, and technologically. This means that the lines must have full country coverage, be toll-free, and apply to landlines and as well as mobile communications. Children are increasingly in possession of mobile phones and may tend to use these more than a landline to seek help or report abuse.

In addition, accessible reporting systems and services must be in place in schools, community health centres, and through other mechanisms at local or village levels. These localized reporting mechanisms can and should be connected to a central reporting and case management system. Ideally, a single government agency or organisation will have oversight of a centralized system, so that gaps and holes in service provision and in referrals do not occur.

It is of utmost importance that proper, efficient, and reliable referral systems are also in place. Hotlines and help lines, as well as other mechanisms, must be supported by and connected to social welfare authorities, law enforcement authorities, or other relevant bodies. Proper follow-up procedures and investigations should be defined and enacted so that each case of violence is followed-up, and that any referral system or hotline retains its credibility in view of its users and target population.

Recommendation Ten: Address the gender dimension of violence against children

The gender dimension is critical to addressing violence against children, as gender often defines the type of violence to which children are subjected. The different risks which are often faced by girls and boys to violence must inform anti-violence policies and programmes. It is particularly important that men and boys are targeted or involved in advocacy efforts, trainings on child rights, societal behaviour change initiatives, and campaigns on violence against children. Addressing this aspect of the gender dimension of violence against children will help prevent future violence, as men are often the perpetrators of abuse. At the same time, efforts must be made to reach women who have also perpetrated violence against children, particularly in the home.

V. Country Action Points

The following country action points and areas of action emerged from the group discussions as ways of moving forward with the implementation of the UN Study recommendations. For several countries, all the action points and areas of action were agreed as a group and therefore are the same. For others, some action points may overlap with those from other countries but certain action points are country-specific.

For each of the following countries, the following needs and actions were identified:

Cambodia

1. There needs to be increased evidence-based research, analysis of legislation currently in effect, and review of NPAs if these are already in place.
2. A state approved child protection task force must be established at a sufficiently high level within the government
3. Enforcement of the law must be strengthened through public awareness-raising.
4. A strategic communication plan must be developed which will reinforce and supplement existing NPAs.
5. Child protection networks at grass-roots level must be strengthened (or developed if not already in place), and these must contain functional referral mechanisms, monitoring, and reporting structures.
6. Capacity-building through use of approved and standardized curricula and training materials for community-level care givers must also take place in order to improve the quality of care provided to children who are victims of violence.
7. Key public figures who can advocate on prevention of VAC and influence the public and the government need to be identified and engaged in dialogue.
8. More vigorous child participation must be sought and encouraged. This can be done, for example, through consolidation of national-level youth advisory groups, children

councils, and capacity building through life skills training.

9. Government counterparts must be empowered to engage in meaningful participation of children
10. Prevention must be encouraged through communication on alternatives to physical punishment; for example, through dissemination of information on positive discipline for example.
11. Children's groups should be identified and their participation encouraged in the dissemination of VAC-related messages.
12. The relationship between country-level UNICEF and Save the Children offices - and between Save the Children Alliance members - must be reinforced through regular meetings, joint mapping activities, information sharing, research activities, monitoring and evaluation efforts, workshops and trainings.
13. Other organizations working on child protection must be identified and engaged.

China

1. There needs to be increased evidence-based research, analysis of legislation currently in effect, and review of NPAs if these are already in place.
2. A state approved child protection task force must be established at a sufficiently high level within the government
3. Enforcement of the law must be strengthened through public awareness-raising.
4. A strategic communication plan must be developed which will reinforce and supplement existing NPAs.
5. Child protection networks at grass-roots level must be strengthened (or developed if not already in place), and these must contain functional referral mechanisms, monitoring, and reporting structures.
6. Capacity-building through use of approved and standardized curricula and training materials for community-level care givers

must also take place in order to improve the quality of care provided to children who are victims of violence.

7. Key public figures who can advocate on prevention of VAC and influence the public and the government need to be identified and engaged in dialogue.
8. More vigorous child participation must be sought and encouraged. This can be done, for example, through consolidation of national-level youth advisory groups, children councils, and capacity building through life skills training.
9. Government counterparts must be empowered to engage in meaningful participation of children
10. Prevention must be encouraged through communication on alternatives to physical punishment; for example, through dissemination of information on positive discipline.
11. Children's groups should be identified and their participation encouraged in the dissemination of VAC-related messages.
12. The relationship between country-level UNICEF and Save the Children offices - and between Save the Children Alliance members - must be reinforced through regular meetings, joint mapping activities, information sharing, research activities, monitoring and evaluation efforts, workshops and trainings.
13. Other organizations working on child protection must be identified and engaged.

Fiji

1. A National Child Protection Policy must be developed.
2. A review of current laws relating to children needs to take place and a legal reform process must be initiated.
3. Capacity-building for those working with and for children must be planned and implemented in order to improve the quality of care provided to children who are victims of violence.
4. Child protection policies and codes of

conduct need to be formulated for those working with and for children within the existing child protection system.

5. A child and youth led anti-VAC campaign needs to be developed and executed.
6. Stakeholders must advocate for the reinstatement of the Child and Youth Advocate within the Ministry of Social Welfare.
7. Traditional approaches of non-violent child rearing which exist in Fiji must be encouraged.
8. Together, UNICEF and Save the Children need to develop a reporting template for reporting to the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children. They must then designate officers with the two organizations to compile and collate this information.

Hong Kong

1. The policies on corporal punishment must be reviewed and modified so as to apply to all settings, including within the family.
2. A clear definition of violence against children must be developed at national level in order to facilitate work between organisations working in child protection.
3. The current laws relating to children must be reviewed and legal reform process must be initiated.
4. A national child protection policy must be designed and developed.
5. A commission to follow up on all issues relating to violence against children needs to be established.
6. An intentional injury and child death database focusing on all children, not only infants, must be put in place in order to better monitor the extent of violence against children.
7. Investigative procedures and abuse response systems need to be reviewed and improved to make child protection more effective.
8. Advocacy efforts for increased budget allocation to social welfare programming affecting children must be strengthened.
9. The corporate sector will be engaged and

encouraged to assist with fundraising action and to help develop or encourage voluntarism.

10. Media tools, such as submitted articles, TV spots, or public petitions, need to be developed and used to raise awareness on the issue of VAC.
11. It is essential to develop a mandatory child abuse reporting system which applies to all relevant professions.
12. Active, representative, and independent child participation in child protection programming must be sought and encouraged.

Indonesia

1. The government willingness to review existing NPAs needs to be assessed.
 2. It is necessary to create a venue for discussing and identifying common priorities amongst duty-bearers.
 3. Work conducted around existing or planned child protection networks (for example, the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Team) must be expanded and increased.
 4. Adoption of the draft NPAs through a presidential decree must be advocated and lobbied for by NGOs.
 5. It is also necessary to pursue, in collaboration with other advocacy groups, lobbying activities on the adoption of a national child protection policy and the development of codes of conduct.
 6. Existing professional codes of conducts must be reviewed in order to ensure that these properly address or consider violence against children. It is also necessary to advocate for the inclusion of such codes amongst relevant agencies and professional groups (such as health, teachers, media, or lawyers.)
 7. It is important to conduct an analysis of costs and budget figures for the child protection programmes which are currently in place. It is also necessary to push government and parliament to commit to action once budget analysis findings and recommendations have been made.
 8. Discussions between UNICEF and Save
- the Children must be held on the process of promoting adherence to national child protection standards. Together the organisations must identify channels and venues for undertaking these processes.
9. The current behaviour change communication plan in the Philippines should be examined for development of an Indonesian strategy to the same effect.
 10. Collaboration with religious groups and faith-based organisations must be increased, as these have significant influence.
 11. The integration of child abuse prevention systems in schools must be promoted. Also, the child-friendly schools model and programme must be promoted amongst policy makers in education.
 12. It is necessary to influence and work with child help lines to make these more widely accessible and more child-friendly through expanded geographical scope and coverage. Also, a dialogue with telecommunications networks on the accessibility of mobile phone networks to help lines needs to take place, and it will be necessary to make such telephone lines toll-free. The help lines must be made non-threatening to children by ensuring follow-up support services and protection for children in reported cases.
 13. The integration of mandatory reporting as part of the role and function of school governing bodies must be promoted.
 14. It is important to strengthen community involvement in setting up and operationalising community resilience systems. It is particularly important to identify risk factors, formulate indicators, and link these to existing social services so as to ensure systems are adapted to the communities they seek to support.
 15. Children's participation in advocacy and lobbying networks must be strengthened.

Japan

1. The policies on corporal punishment must be reviewed and modified so as to apply to all settings, including within the family.
2. A clear definition of violence against children

must be developed at national level in order to facilitate work between organisations working in child protection.

3. The current laws relating to children must be reviewed and legal reform process must be initiated.
4. A national child protection policy must be designed and developed.
5. A commission to follow up on all issues relating to violence against children needs to be established.
6. An intentional injury and child death database focusing on all children, not only infants, must be put in place in order to better monitor the extent of violence against children.
7. Investigative procedures and abuse response systems need to be reviewed and improved to make child protection more effective.
8. Advocacy efforts for increased budget allocation to social welfare programming affecting children must be strengthened.
9. The corporate sector will be engaged and encouraged to assist with fundraising action and to help develop or encourage voluntarism.
10. Media tools, such as submitted articles, TV spots, or public petitions, need to be developed and used to raise awareness on the issue of VAC.
11. It is essential to develop a mandatory child abuse reporting system which applies to all relevant professions.
12. Active, representative, and independent child participation in child protection programming must be sought and encouraged.

Kiribati

1. The most important step is that a National Consultation on Violence against Children needs to be held in Kiribati.
2. The Overall Recommendations of the UN Study must be translated.
3. Capacity-building for those working with and for children must be planned and implemented in order to improve the quality of care provided to children who are victims of violence.

4. A child and youth led anti-VAC campaign needs to be developed and executed.
5. Traditional approaches of non-violent child rearing which exist in Kiribati must be encouraged.

Korea

1. The policies on corporal punishment must be reviewed and modified so as to apply to all settings, including within the family.
2. A clear definition of violence against children must be developed at national level in order to facilitate work between organisations working in child protection.
3. The current laws relating to children must be reviewed and legal reform process must be initiated.
4. A national child protection policy must be designed and developed.
5. A commission to follow up on all issues relating to violence against children needs to be established.
6. An intentional injury and child death database focusing on all children, not only infants, must be put in place in order to better monitor the extent of violence against children.
7. Investigative procedures and abuse response systems need to be reviewed and improved to make child protection more effective.
8. Advocacy efforts for increased budget allocation to social welfare programming affecting children must be strengthened.
9. The corporate sector will be engaged and encouraged to assist with fundraising action and to help develop or encourage voluntarism.
10. Media tools, such as submitted articles, TV spots, or public petitions, need to be developed and used to raise awareness on the issue of VAC.
11. It is essential to develop a mandatory child abuse reporting system which applies to all relevant professions.
12. Active, representative, and independent child participation in child protection programming must be sought and encouraged.

Lao PDR

1. There needs to be increased evidence-based research, analysis of legislation currently in effect, and review of NPAs if these are already in place.
2. A state approved child protection task force must be established at a sufficiently high level within the government.
3. Enforcement of the law must be reinforced through public awareness-raising.
4. A strategic communication plan must be developed which will reinforce and supplement existing NPAs.
5. Child protection networks at grass-roots level must be strengthened (or developed if not already in place), and these must contain functional referral mechanisms, monitoring, and reporting structures.
6. Capacity-building through use of approved and standardized curricula and training materials for community-level care givers must also take place in order to improve the quality of care provided to children who are victims of violence.
7. Key public figures who can advocate on prevention of VAC and influence the public and the government need to be identified and engaged in dialogue.
8. More vigorous child participation must be sought and encouraged. This can be done, for example, through consolidation of national-level youth advisory groups, children councils, and capacity building through life skills training.
9. Government counterparts must be empowered to promote the meaningful participation of children.
10. Prevention must be encouraged through communication on alternatives to physical punishment, though dissemination of information on positive discipline, for example.
11. Children's groups should be identified and their participation encouraged in the dissemination of VAC-related messages.
12. The relationship between country-level UNICEF and Save the Children offices - and between Save the Children Alliance

members - must be reinforced through regular meetings, joint mapping activities, information sharing, research activities, monitoring and evaluation efforts, workshops and trainings.

13. Other organizations working on child protection must be identified and engaged.

Malaysia

1. The policies on corporal punishment must be reviewed and modified so as to apply to all settings, including within the family.
2. A clear definition of violence against children must be developed at national level in order to facilitate work between organisations working in child protection.
3. The current laws relating to children must be reviewed and legal reform process must be initiated.
4. A national child protection policy must be designed and developed.
5. A commission to follow up on all issues relating to violence against children needs to be established.
6. An intentional injury and child death database focusing on all children, not only infants, must be put in place in order to better monitor the extent of violence against children.
7. Investigative procedures and abuse response systems need to be reviewed and improved to make child protection more effective.
8. Advocacy efforts for increased budget allocation to social welfare programming affecting children must be strengthened.
9. The corporate sector will be engaged and encouraged to assist with fundraising action and to help develop or encourage voluntarism.
10. Media tools, such as submitted articles, TV spots, or public petitions, need to be developed and used to raise awareness on the issue of VAC.
11. It is essential to develop a mandatory child abuse reporting system which applies to all relevant professions.
12. Active, representative, and independent child participation in child protection programming must be sought and encouraged.

Mongolia

1. There needs to be increased evidence-based research, analysis of legislation currently in effect, and review of NPAs if these are already in place.
2. A state approved child protection task force must be established at a sufficiently high level within the government
3. Enforcement of the law must be reinforced through public awareness-raising.
4. A strategic communication plan must be developed which will reinforce and supplement existing NPAs.
5. Child protection networks at grass-roots level must be strengthened (or developed if not already in place), and these must contain functional referral mechanisms, monitoring, and reporting structures.
6. Capacity-building through use of approved and standardized curricula and training materials for community-level care givers must also take place in order to improve the quality of care provided to children who are victims of violence.
7. Key public figures who can advocate on prevention of VAC and influence the public and the government need to be identified and engaged in dialogue.
8. More vigorous child participation must be sought and encouraged. This can be done, for example, through consolidation of national-level youth advisory groups, children councils, and capacity building through life skills training.
9. Government counterparts must be empowered to promote the meaningful participation of children.
10. Prevention must be encouraged through communication on alternatives to physical punishment, though dissemination of information on positive discipline for example.
11. Children's groups should be identified and their participation encouraged in the dissemination of VAC-related messages.
12. The relationship between country-level UNICEF and Save the Children offices - and between Save the Children Alliance members - must be reinforced through

regular meetings, joint mapping activities, information sharing, research activities, monitoring and evaluation efforts, workshops and trainings.

13. Other organizations working on child protection must be identified and engaged in dialogue.

New Zealand

1. On-going review of how New Zealand is meeting its obligations towards the CRC will take place through dialogue with the Ministry of Youth Development.
2. It will be important to continue lobbying and advocacy activities for the development of political instruments in government and putting child rights on the political agenda (for example, Child Impact Reporting, Cross Party Caucus, Minister for Children).
3. It will be necessary to work with leading parenting education bodies to further develop positive parenting resources and to integrate and promote current child welfare systems amongst the wider population.
4. Save the Children New Zealand will seek to work with ECPAT to support training for care professionals and agencies on the prevention of child abuse.
5. Child rights must be integrated into education. For example, they must be integrated through initiatives such as Building Human Rights Communities in Education and the World Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child.
6. A child and youth led anti-VAC campaign needs to be developed and executed.
7. An Indigenous Human Rights Policy in Child Protection Development must be developed and integrated into New Zealand national child protection programmes and strategies.
8. Traditional approaches for non-violent child rearing which exist in New Zealand must be encouraged.
9. Strengthen and advocate for the ability of national government to acknowledge and implement recommendations from the UN Study and the Special Representative of the Secretary General.
10. Together, UNICEF and Save the Children need to develop a template for reporting to

the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children. They must then designate officers with the two organizations to compile and collate this information.

Papua New Guinea

1. A National Child Protection Policy must be developed.
2. A review of current laws relating to children needs to take place and a legal reform process must be initiated.
3. Capacity-building for those working with and for children must be planned and implemented in order to improve the quality of care provided to children who are victims of violence.
4. Child protection policies and codes need to be formulated for those working with and for children within the existing child protection system.
5. Formulation of child protection policies and codes of conduct for those working with and for children within the system
6. Child rights must be integrated into education. For example, they must be integrated through initiatives such as Building Human Rights Communities in Education and the World Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child.
7. A child and youth led anti-VAC campaign needs to be developed and executed.
8. Traditional approaches of non-violent child rearing which exist in Papua New Guinea must be encouraged.
9. Together, UNICEF and Save the Children need to develop a template for reporting to the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children. They must then designate officers with the two organizations to compile and collate this information.
10. A societal behaviour change campaign must be developed and launched in order to encourage attitude changes towards child rights.

Philippines

1. A two-year action plan with government and/or civil society groups for the implementation of the national plan of action needs to be developed.
2. It is necessary to pursue, in collaboration with other advocacy groups, lobbying activities on the adoption of a national child protection policy and the development of codes of conduct.
3. Existing professional codes of conduct must be reviewed in order to ensure that these properly address or consider violence against children. It is also necessary to advocate for the inclusion of such codes amongst relevant agencies and professional groups (such as health, teachers, media, or lawyers.)
4. Budget analysis needs to be examined and considered as an option for applying more efficient advocacy. This analysis can be done through other groups, partners, academia, international and financial institutions, and looking at internal resources.
5. A behaviour-change communication plan needs to be discussed amongst partners within the VAC network.
6. It is necessary to influence and work with child help lines to make these more widely accessible and more child-friendly through expanded geographical scope and coverage. Also, a dialogue with telecommunications networks on the accessibility of mobile phone networks to help lines needs to take place, and it will be necessary to make such telephone lines toll-free. The help lines must be made non-threatening to children by ensuring follow-up support services and protection for children in reported cases.
7. The integration of mandatory reporting as part of the role and function of school governing bodies must be promoted.
8. It is important to strengthen community involvement in setting up and operationalising community resilience systems. It is particularly important to identify risk factors, formulate indicators, and link these to existing social services so as to ensure systems are adapted to the communities they seek to support.

9. Children's participation in advocacy and lobbying networks must be strengthened.

Thailand

1. It is important to continue building evidence on the situation of children and to record good practices which exist in child protection.
2. The amendment or development of specific laws on violence against children must begin, and it is necessary to make certain that these changes are on the agenda of law makers and legal authorities.
3. Forums and workshops on child protection must be made more frequent.
4. It is important to advocate for a single responsible agency on child protection systems in Thailand.
5. It is also important to pressure the government to institutionalize child participation in the Thai legal framework.
6. A campaign on elimination of VAC through social behaviour change in collaboration with government authorities and media representatives must be developed. This should be done using strong impact evaluation indicators.
7. Appropriate social work curricula and codes of conduct must be developed to increase the number of qualified social workers working on child protection.
8. NGOs must pressure the government to support specific case management models and expand these to all communities in the country.
9. It is necessary to promote the implementation of the Positive Discipline manual.
10. It is important to advocate for a centralized child-friendly reporting system and monitoring of the quality of any and all hotlines and help lines.
11. A children's forum should be organized so children can discuss child-friendly protection systems. This will enable policy makers to incorporate children's ideas into the existing systems.
12. Positive discipline and child development issues need to be included in teaching training curricula as a form of prevention.

13. It is necessary to strengthen the current National Youth Council and encourage the Council to discuss child protection concerns.
14. Increased child participation in ending violence against children should be sought and encouraged.


Vietnam

1. It is important to continue building evidence on the situation of children and to record good practices which exist in child protection.
2. The amendment or development of specific laws on violence against children must begin, and it is necessary to make certain that these changes are on the agenda of law makers and legal authorities.
3. Forums and workshops on child protection must be made more frequent.
4. It is important to advocate for a single responsible agency on child protection systems in Vietnam.
5. It is necessary to develop child protection networks in local communities.
6. Good practices on child protection must be documented and disseminated through workshops and seminars.
7. A counselling service for vulnerable children must be initiated.
8. Appropriate social work curricula and codes of conduct must be developed to increase the number of qualified social workers working child protection.
9. A campaign on elimination of VAC through social behaviour change in collaboration with government authorities and media representatives must be developed. This should be done using strong impact evaluation indicators.
10. It is necessary to promote good parenting through establishing and maintaining parenting clubs as well as through television programmes and the Internet.
11. It is important to advocate for a centralized child-friendly reporting system and monitoring of the quality of any and all hotlines and help lines.
12. A children's forum should be organized so children can discuss the child-friendly

protection systems. This will enable policy makers to incorporate children's ideas into the existing systems.

13. Positive discipline and child development issues need to be included in teaching training curricula as a form of prevention.
14. It is necessary to strengthen the current National Youth Council and encourage the Council to discuss child protection concerns.
15. Groups should advocate for the development of a legal framework to allow for greater civil society discussions in Vietnam.

Annexes

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- I. Meeting Agenda
 - II. Participants List
 - III. Meeting Evaluations
 - IV. Country Update Reports

Annex I: Meeting Agenda

UNICEF - Save the Children
East Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting:

Taking Forward the Recommendations of the UN Secretary General's
Global Study on Violence against Children

Amari Watergate Hotel Bangkok (Thailand), 6-7 March 2008

Objectives:

1. To take stock of follow-up to the UN Study recommendations at the country level;
2. To share and discuss good practices as well as concerns/obstacles to addressing all violence against children;
3. To discuss and plan next steps at national and regional levels to foster closer UNICEF-Save the Children collaboration in our work on child protection.

Agenda:

Thursday, 6 March 2008

Morning	
0830-0900	Registration
0900-0915 15 min.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Sawon Hong Meeting objectives and agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Ravi Karkara
0915-0930 15 min.	Introduction of participants
0930-1000 30 min.	Child protection and the UN Study: Where are we now? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of the UN Study global process and progress in the EAP region by Mr. Dominique Pierre Plateau
1000-1030 30 min.	Break

1030-1230 2 hrs.	<p>Session 1: National policy and legal systems</p> <p>Panel presentations (1 hr.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Plans of Action, cross-sector coordination and legal reform <i>by Ms. Foroogh Foyouzat, Ms. Eva Cayanan, and Ms. Wilma Banaga (Philippines)</i> • National data collection and research <i>by Sonya Hogan (Indonesia)</i> <p>Group work (1 hr.)</p>
1230-1330 1 hr.	Lunch
Afternoon	
1330-1515 1 hr. 45 min.	<p>Session 2: Social welfare systems</p> <p>Panel presentations (45 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and families <i>by Mr. Bruce Grant (Papua New Guinea)</i> • Developing recovery and social reintegration services <i>by Ms. Tina Wesslund (Cambodia)</i> <p>Group work (1 hr.)</p>
1515-1530 15 min.	Break
1530-1715 1 hr. 45 min.	<p>Session 3: Societal behaviour change</p> <p>Panel presentations (45 min.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting non-violent values and awareness-raising <i>by Ms. Iris Low (Fiji)</i> • Strengthening accountability and ending impunity <i>by Dr. Berina Arslanagic-Ibisevic (Mongolia)</i> <p>Group work (1 hr.)</p>
1830-2000	Reception

Friday, 7 March 2008

Morning	
0830-0845 15 min.	Recap
0845-1030 1 hr. 45 min.	Session 4: Cross-cutting themes Panel presentations (45 min.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing prevention by <i>Ms. Victoria Juat (Lao PDR)</i> • Facilitating children's participation in national actions against violence by <i>Ms. Wilma Banaga (Philippines)</i> Group work (1 hr.)
1030-1100 30 min.	Break
1100-1200 1 hr.	Session 5: The way forward Group work (1 hr.)
1200-1300 1 hr.	Lunch
Afternoon	
1300-1500 2 hrs.	Session 5: The way forward (continued) Group presentations (2 hrs.)
1500-1530 30 min.	Break
1530-1630 1 hr.	Session 6: Synthesis and closing Priorities and next steps at the regional level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms Sawon Hong and Mr Dominique Pierre Plateau</i> Meeting synthesis
	Evaluation and closing

Annex II: Participants List

Name	Position	Address	Email	Telephone/Fax
Cambodia				
Mr. Klauth Sambo	Assistant Programme Officer	Save the Children Norway in Cambodia #18, St. 57/294, Boeung Kengkang 1 Chamcarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	sambo@scn.online.com	T: +855 23 216 232 +855 23 217 720 F: +855 23 215 078
Mr. Meas Sambath	National Coordinator of Child Protection Programme	Save the Children Australia Villa 51, Street 352 Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Cpp_nc@sca-cambodia.org	T: +855 23 214 334 F: +855 23 214 334 +855 23 360 381
Ms. Tina Wesslund	Child Protection Programme Manager	Save the Children Australia Villa 51, Street 352 Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Cpp_mgr@sca-cambodia.org	T: +855 23 214 334 F: +855 23 214 334 +855 23 360 381
China				
Mr. Wang Daming	Child Protection Officer	UNICEF China 12 Sanlitun Lu, Beijing 100600 China	dwang@unicef.org	T: +86-10 6532-3131 F: +86-10 6532-3107
Fiji				
Ms. Iris Low	Child Rights Manager	Save the Children Fiji 25 Pender Street, Suva, Fiji	ilow@savethechildren.org.fj	T: +679 331 3178 F: +679 330 2214
Hong Kong				
Ms. Carmen Liu Ka Man	Social Worker	Against Child Abuse 107-108, Wai Yuen House, Chuk Yuen (North) Estate, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR	carmen@aca.org.hk	T: +852 2351 6060 F: +852 2752 8483
Indonesia				
Ms. Astrid Gonzaga Dionisio	Child Protection Officer	UNICEF Indonesia Wisma Metropolitan II, 10-11th Floors, Jl. Jenderal Sudirman Kav.31, Jakarta 12920 Indonesia	adionisio@unicef.org	T: +62 21 570 5816 F: +62-21 571 1326
Ms. Sonya Hogan	National Child Protection Advisor	Save the Children UK - Indonesia Jl. Pejaten Barat no.8, Jakarta, Indonesia	s.hogan@savethechildren.or.id	T: +62 21 7883 5556 F: +62 21 7883 5665
Japan				
Ms. Masako Ueda	Programme Officer	Save the Children UK Mongolia Programme 4th Floor, "Arizona Plaza" Building, Khoroo 1, Chingeltei District, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	masako@savethechildren.mn	T: +976 11 329 365 +976 11 329 371 F: +976 11 329 361
Mr. Shigeyuki Tazawa	Programme Officer in Charge of CRC and CPP	Save the Children Japan 8F 3-2-6 Nihonbashi-Hongokucho Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0021, Japan	tazawa@savechildren.or.jp	T: +81 3 3516 8932 F: +81 3 3516 8923

Name	Position	Address	Email	Telephone/Fax
Kiribati				
Mr. Joao Mendes	Child Protection Officer	UNICEF Kiribati Kiribati, Tarawa- Bekinebeu	jmendes@unicef.org	
Korea				
Ms. In-Sook Kim	Vice President Senior Manager	Save the Children Korea 169-2 Changjeon-dong, Mapo-ku Seoul 121-881, South Korea	insook@sc.or.kr	T: + 82 2 336 5242 F: + 82 2 336 6232
Ms. Oh Sun-Young		Save the Children Korea 169-2 Changjeon-dong, Mapo-ku Seoul 121-881, South Korea	sunyoung.oh@sc.or.kr	T: + 82 2 6900 4451 F: + 82 2 6900 4499
Lao PDR				
Ms. Chittaphone Santavasy	Programme Coordinator	Save the Children Norway PO Box 7475, Vientiane, Lao PDR	chittaphonesantavasy@yahoo.com	T: + 856 21 314 814-5 F: + 856 21 351 001
Ms. Maria Victoria Juat	Chief, Child Protection	UNICEF Vientiane P.O. Box 1080, Vientiane, Lao PDR.	vjuat@unicef.org	T: +856 21 315 200 F: +856 21 314 852
Malaysia				
Mr. Guy Thompstone	Child Protection Consultant	Wisma UN, Blok C, 2nd Floor Komplek Pejabat Damansara Jalan Dungun, Damansara Heights 50490 Kuala Lumpur	gthompstone@unicef.org	T: + 603 2095 9154 F: + 603 2093 0582
Mongolia				
Ms. Berina Arslanagic-Ibisevic	Chief, Child Protection	UNICEF Mongolia 210646 Negdsen Undestnii Street-12 Sukhbaatar District UN House - Building No. 2Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia	barslanagic@unicef.org	T: +976 11 312 201 +976 11 312-183 F: +97611 327313
Ms. Pagma Urtnasan	Executive Director	Center for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Room 505, Prestige Center, Peace Avenue, 15 Khoroo, Bayanzurkh district, Ulaanbaatar 210348-A, Mongolia	u.pagma@yahoo.com	T: +976 11 455000 +976 99129270 F: +976 11 455000
New Zealand				
Ms Ariana Paretutan-ganui-Tamati	Programme Manager	Save the Children New Zealand PO Box 6584, Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand	ariana@scnz.org.nz	T: +64 4 385 6847 F: +64 4 385 6793
Papua New Guinea				
Mr. Bruce Grant	Chief, Child Protection	UNICEF Papua New Guinea PO Box 472, Port Moresby NCD, Papua New Guinea	bgrant@unicef.org	T: +675 321 3000 F: +675 321 1372
Ms. Hennie Kama	Senior Project Officer, Child Rights	Save the Children PNG P.O. Box 667, Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea	hkama@savethechildren.org.pg	T: +675 732 2473 F: +675 732 2767

Name	Position	Address	Email	Telephone/Fax
Philippines				
Ms. Eva Maria Cayan	Programme Coordinator	Save the Children Sweden 3/F OTM Building, 71 Scout Tuazon St., Brgy. South Triangle, 1103 Quezon City, Philippines	evamariac@seap. savethechildren.se	T: +632 3723483 F: +632 3723484
Mr. Farooq Foyouzat	Chief, Child Protection	UNICEF Philippines c/o UNICEF, 31 Floor, Yunchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 RCBC Plaza, 1200 Makati City, Philippines	ffoyouzat@unicef.org	T: +63 2 9010129 F: +63 2 729 4527
Ms. Minerva C. Cabiles	Programme Officer	Save the Children Sweden 3/F OTM Building, 71 Scout Tuazon St., Brgy. South Triangle, 1103 Quezon City, Philippines	minervac@seap. savethechildren.se	T: +632 3723483 F: +632 3723484
Ms. Wilma T. Banaga	Programme Officer	Save the Children Sweden 3/F OTM Building, 71 Scout Tuazon St., Brgy. South Triangle, 1103 Quezon City, Philippines	wilmab@seap. savethechildren.se	T: +632 3723483 F: +632 3723484
Ms. Stephanie Anne M. Sison	Adolescent Health Specialist	Save the Children (USA) Philippines Country Office 1 Encarnacion cor Lapu Lapu Ave., Magallanes Village, Makati City, Philippines	ssison@savechildren. org	T: +63 2 8523064/ 59 F: +63 2 8530215
Thailand				
Mr. Adisak Klaklangsmorn	Assistant Programme Officer	Save the Children Sweden 14th Flr., Maneeya Center, South Tower, 518/5 Ploenchit Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand	adisakk@seap. savethechildren.se	T: +66 2 684 1046-7 F: +66 2 684 1048
Ms. Naiyana Thanawattho	Project Manage	Save the Children Sweden 14th Flr., Maneeya Center, South Tower, 518/5 Ploenchit Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand	naiyanat@seap. savethechildren.se	T: +66 2 684 1046-7 F: +66 2 684 1048
Ms. Pathamapond Yiamsudhisopon	Assistant Programme Officer	Save the Children Sweden 14th Flr., Maneeya Center, South Tower, 518/5 Ploenchit Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand	pathamapondy@seap. savethechildren.se	T: +66 2 684 1046-7 F: +66 2 684 1048
Ms. Sirirath Chunnasart	Child Protection Officer	UNICEF Thailand 19 Phra Atit Road Bangkok 10200 Thailand	schunnasart@unicef. org	T: +66 (0)2 356 9224 F: +66 (0)2 356 9253
Vietnam				
Mr. Conilleau Jerome	Programme Manager	Save the Children Sweden 6 Ton That Thiep, Hanoi, Vietnam Save the Children Sweden	jerome@scsweden. org.vn	T: +84 4 823 2393 F: +84 4 823 2393
Mr. Tran Ban Hung	Programme Officer Child Protection	6 Ton That Thiep, Hanoi, Vietnam	hung@scsweden. org.vn	T: +84 4 823 2393 F: +84 4 823 2393

Name	Position	Address	Email	Telephone/Fax
Save the Children SEAP Mr. Dominique Pierre Plateau	Child Protection Manager	Save the Children Sweden 14th Flr., Maneeya Center, South Tower, 518/5 Ploenchit Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand	dominiquepp@seap. savethechildren.se	T: +66 2 684 1046-7 F: +66 2 684 1048
Save the Children Head Office Mr. David Ruiz Coronado	Global Advocacy Advisor on Child Protection	Save the Children Sweden's Head Office Landsvägen 39, Sundbyberg, Stockholm, Sweden	david.ruiz.coronado@rb.se	T: +46 8698 9052 F: +46 8698 9010
UNICEF EAPRO Ms. Sawon Hong	Regional Advisor, Child Protection	UNICEF EAPRO Regional Office 19 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand	shong@unicef.org	T: +66 (0)2 356 9425 F: +66 (0)2 280 3563
Ms. Amalee McCoy	Child Protection Consultant	UNICEF EAPRO Regional Office 19 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand	amccoy@unicef.org	T: +66 (0)2 356 9419 F: +66 (0)2 280 3563
Mr. Alexander Krueger	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF EAPRO Regional Office 19 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand	akrueger@unicef.org	T: +66 (0)2 356 9256 F: +66 (0)2 280 3563
Ms. Jane Kim	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF EAPRO Regional Office 19 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand	jkim@unicef.org	T: +66 (0)2 356 9277 F: +66 (0)2 280 3563
Facilitator Mr. Ravi Karkara	Facilitator	UNICEF Headquarters	rkarkara@unicef.org	T: +1 212 303 5979 F: +1 212 824 6470
Documenter Mr. Luc Ferran	Rapporteur	128/511 Phaya Thai Plaza, 16th Flr, Bangkok 10400, Thailand	lucferran@gmail.com	T: +66 2 216 1759 M: +66 08 5 121 0611

Synthesis of Participant Evaluations

1. What are your key learnings from this workshop

There were four groups of answers for this question:

- i. The meeting was particularly useful in terms of good practices presented and shared experience from other countries: **15 responses**
The recurrent good practices or methodologies identified included communication strategies and examples, cost analysis, use of advocacy, the positive discipline training
- ii. The work shop was useful in identifying obstacles and gaps in legislation and in terms of youth participation: **2 responses**
- iii. The meeting was useful in framing our work in terms of the UN Study recommendations and getting a global picture of the work done on violence against children: **10 responses**
- iv. The meeting was useful in terms of exposing collaboration and facilitation: **1 response**

2. How could have the meeting been better? Any specific suggestions for the organizers?

There were five groups of answers for this question:

- i. Little or nothing could have been done to improve the meeting: **13 responses**
- ii. The meeting should have had more country-specific discussions as it is difficult to make concrete recommendations regionally: **3 responses**
- iii. More INGOs should have been included: **1 response**
- iv. There should have been more variety in the methodology of the meeting: **10 responses.**
Some of the suggestions made here included exposure visits to on-going initiatives, distributing the discussion questions ahead of time, more mixing of groups, limit the number of presentations, time arrangement, include the participation of children, and not use five star hotels for such meetings.
- v. There should have been more on collaboration between UNICEF and Save the Children : **1 response**

3. Do you feel that you are now better prepared to encourage follow-up to the UN Global Study in your country? If, yes, how? If not, please elaborate.

There were eight groups of answers to this question:

- I. Yes, with no elaboration : **5 responses**
- II. Yes, as an advocate on the UN Global Study: **1 response**
- III. Yes, because of the possibilities of collaborating with outside or partner agencies and working together: **13 responses**
- IV. Yes, because of the report that will be disseminated (request that power point presentations be included): **1 response**
- V. Yes and No. Yes, because of the concrete action points and no because we did not address country-specific challenges: **1 response**
- VI. Yes, because of the positive discipline expertise: **1 response**
- VII. No comment at all: **2 responses**
- VIII. Yes,, because of clear objectives and understanding of gaps: **4 responses**

4. Do you think that this meeting will foster greater collaboration between UNICEF and Save the Children in the Future? Why or Why not?

There were four groups of answers to this question:

- I. Yes, definitely. The meeting reinforced the partnership that already existed or helps start a new one: **15 responses.**
- II. Yes, but it is just a start and the relationship needs to be maintained: **8 responses**
- III. Yes and no. We can't evaluate until the real collaboration has taken place: **1 response.**
- IV. I hope so or it will help: **4 responses.**

Annex IV: Country update reports

Cambodia

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

- 1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The results of the UN Study were launched with a press release on 12 October 2006.

- 1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

The UN Study has not been translated into Khmer.

- 1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

The dissemination of the report was limited to main stakeholders, particularly international organizations and non-governmental organisations.

2. National policy and legal systems

- 2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The draft 2nd NPA against Trafficking in Person and Sexual Exploitation addresses sexual violence of children, while the draft NPA on the Worst Forms of Child labour addresses VAC through labour.

- 2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

There are no efforts to develop a Plan of Action.

- 2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

No official Government Focal Point has been appointed.

- 2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There have been several recent efforts to amend relevant legislation. These, in chronological order, are:

- The Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims adopted in October 2005 which provides measures to address domestic violence including violence against children.
- The new Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation adopted in February 2007 which provides more detailed measures on trafficking and sexual exploitation, including those on children.

- The draft Law on Juvenile Justice under development which addresses the rights of children in conflict with the law and their protection from violence.
- Initiated by Save the Children Norway and other non-governmental organizations, the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MOSAVY) endorsed a regulation to ban corporal punishment of children in schools. Save the Children Norway have been involved in the implementation of the regulation and now classrooms are starting to have signs saying «no punishment of children in school».
- Save the Children Norway has developed a series of tools for data collection focusing on school-based criteria, which involves head teachers, teachers, and members of children's council. These tools help involve them in the elimination of VAC in the home and school.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

There are no efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There are no efforts to promote full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role

3. Social welfare systems

3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

At national level, the Cambodian National Council for Children established in 1995 is the inter-ministerial body with overall responsibility for all issues related to children. Also at national level, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSAVY) established in June 2006 the Anti-Trafficking and Reintegration Office inside the Social Welfare Department. Part of their mandate is to do follow-up visits to child and women victims of violence, abuse, and exploitation who are reintegrated back into the community, and provide care to child victims of trafficking who are repatriated or deported from Thailand and Vietnam. The Ministry is now developing a common data collection system for shelters providing care for victims of violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

At local government level, 2002 marked the elections of the first Commune Councils. The Ministry of Interior, with support of UNICEF, promoted the establishment of Commune Committees for Women and Children (CCWC) and a system of female Focal Points for Women and Children (FPWC). These bodies operate at commune level and have a mandate to bring together key local service providers to address priority issues for women and children. They are the "eyes, ears and voice" for children at the commune level. Furthermore, MoSAVY is implementing Child Protection Networks (CPN) in collaboration with UNICEF, Save the Children Australia and World Vision Cambodia (CPN) in 2 provinces (Svay Rieng and Prey Veng). These are village and commune-based networks made up of children, village chiefs and village volunteers, and commune-level actors (CCWC and FPWC) aimed at raising awareness of child protection issues in their communities, identifying cases in need of referral, and following up to ensure services are provided.

Through the Village Safety Net Programme (VSNP), local authorities and communities are empowered by Save the Children's NGO partners to respond to the issues of domestic violence, corporal punishment, sexual abuse and exploitation, gambling, and commercial sexual exploitation. Similarly, World Vision Cambodia is piloting a project to work on elimination of domestic violence through self-support groups attended by commune councils, police and other influential people and children's clubs where children participate in the prevention of domestic violence.

3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

With support from UNICEF, MOSVY provides social work training to its staff at the grass-root level so as to build their capacity in addressing violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation faced by children. Also with support from UNICEF and World Vision, the Ministry of Interior provides support and training for the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Police to strengthen their capacity to investigate and make arrests related in sexual offences against women and children. The Ministry of Interior has provided training on child protection issues, including violence against children, to members of Commune Councils in six provinces.

In terms of NGO work, Save the Children provides training on child participation and child rights programming to partner staff and to partners' networks. There have been 46 NGOs who have received training on child right programming while Positive Discipline training has been conducted with Save the Children Norway partners who work with children in the centres and to VSNP participants. The NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child, with support from Save the Children Norway, provides training and follow-up meetings on children's rights to health officers of municipal health departments so that they can put concepts into practice. There is also the Law Advisory Council (LAC), supported by Save the Children Norway, which conducts training sessions on child rights, law and judicial procedures to police, jail officers, local authorities, teachers and other government sectors in pilot communes of one province (Battambang) and to police in all districts of the province. LAC also conducts meetings once every two months to build up capacity of the Child/Youth Protection Network (CYPN) and to members of the child rights network on leadership and management, problem solving, basic law and how to report when child abuse occurs, and provide on-the-job training to child protection committee at district level.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

With Support from UNICEF, MOSAVY has developed six flipcharts for community awareness-raising on violence against children: sexual abuse, child battering, domestic violence, alcoholism, child justice and birth registration. The flipchart on Child Battering is under revision and will be changed into Violence against Children. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Women's Affairs provides Training on the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of the Victims.

Other efforts include that of a local NGO, the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC) which runs a project on Anger Management for Men to teach them not to use violence. In terms of information dissemination, Save the Children Norway printed 5,000 booklets of Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims as a tool to raise awareness of local authorities and communities. Furthermore, Provincial Education Officers (PEOs), with support

from Save the Children Norway, are raising awareness on eliminating VAC with teachers, students and communities in six provinces.

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Police has established telephone police hotlines in four provinces and a national line for reporting case of sexual abuse, rape, domestic violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation of children or women, and has developed a database on cases investigated, arrests made and prosecuted.

The Ministry of Justice, with support from UNICEF, is piloting a court case tracking system to help them follow cases relating to children (either child victims or children in conflict with the law) through the investigation, arrest, prosecution, trial and sentencing stages and have more comprehensive data. This system links up with the Ministry of Interior database.

To ensure justice and to avoid out-of-court settlement, LAC provides case representation to child victims and children in conflict with the law.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1 What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

Child participation has been promoted through the MoSAVY/CPN project. Children's representatives are elected in all villages to participate in the meetings of the Commune Councils and present their views. The children also conduct awareness-raising sessions in their villages and peer education on child protection issues, including violence.

In April 2007, consultations with children were carried out for a Children and Youth Forum on Trafficking in Persons organized by the CNCC to raise children's concerns and recommendation to the Royal Government of Cambodia.

At an organizational level, Save the Children Australia's Youth Advisory Panel has been established. The NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child met the Child Advocacy Network to voice their concerns, views and comments to the national assembly, government, multilateral and bilateral agencies and media.

5.2 What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Since 2006, a group of NGOs and UN organizations have been working together to establish the first child helpline in Cambodia. The helpline, which is expected to be operational on a pilot basis during 2008, is to offer free telephone help services for children in distress due to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, or other forms of violence. These services are provided by trained staff who are able to provide basic support and guidance and refer as necessary to direct services in the child's geographic area.

In 2007, UNICEF and Save the Children Australia have collaborated in conducting a mapping of reporting system on VAC which resulted in a report entitled "Sound the Alarm: Reporting Violence Against Children in Cambodia".

5.3 What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

Gender equity is a major concern of the CWCC project on Anger Management for Men, which gives examples on how to get eliminated the use of violence by men.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

Firstly, UNICEF and Save the Children Australia have collaborated in a mapping exercise, as well as in the development of the Child Help Line in Cambodia. There has been consultation for future strategies. Also, while UNICEF is supporting MoSAVY in the implementation of the CPN project in two provinces, Save the Children also has similar CPN in some other provinces.

Fiji

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

In Fiji, the report was officially launched in November 2006. It was launched together with the Report on the Pacific Consultation of VAC which was held in September 2005. The launch was organized in partnership with UNICEF, the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Housing, and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. There were key stakeholders present at the launching from relevant government ministries, non government organizations and the media. A full press conference was held to launch the reports with addresses from the Permanent Secretary for Women, the Pacific Representative from UNICEF, the Coordinator of the Women's Crisis Centre, the Communication's Officer from the Fiji Women's Rights Movement and the Child Rights Manager of Save the Children Fiji.

The Child Rights Manager of Save the Children Fiji also presented findings of the report to the National Coordinating Committee on Children following the launch. The report and child-friendly version of the report were also displayed at this meeting.

1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

The report has not been translated into any vernacular language in Fiji.

1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

Save the Children Fiji has disseminated the very limited number of reports it had obtained to stakeholders within government, including the Chairperson of the National Coordinating

Committee on Children and the Acting Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Other requests have been directed to UNICEF as well as the official website where they can download the report. The child-friendly version has been shared with members of Kids Link Fiji. A number of copies of the child-friendly version were also disseminated to other non-government organizations working with children such as Vision Fiji.

On a wider scale, UNICEF has yet to distribute any copies of the official report in Fiji

2. National policy and legal systems

2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

At a national level, the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC), an interagency committee mandated by cabinet to oversee the overall implementation of the UN CRC, underwent a two-day training/planning workshop on child protection in March 2007 followed by a planning meeting.

This two-day training and planning day was facilitated by Save the Children Fiji through funding from Australian Government Aid. The first day was spent on training members on issues of child protection whilst the second day was spent mapping out an annual work plan for the NCCC. Areas which the Committee agreed to work on included issues of violence against children.

The Committee raised several issues to be addressed in regards to VAC and these include reviewing of current legislation, strengthening monitoring processes relating to collecting evidence, establishing a child helpline, reactivating the Interagency on Child Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment, building capacity of existing community duty bearers which includes translation of relevant material (educational) and to strengthen services to child victims. To date, there has been progress on all issues raised except the child helpline which needs further consultation before a decision is made.

Overall progress on following up on recommendations of the Global Study at a national level has been slow. However, last July, UNICEF together with the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Housing, initiated discussions on conducting a baseline research on child protection in five Pacific Island countries. The baseline research, which is expected to be completed in August 2008, will address many of the recommendations outlined in the Global Study.

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

A plan of action for implementation of the recommendations has been developed to address VAC in Fiji. The UNICEF/Fiji Government Child Protection Regional Results Framework (RRF) for 2008-2012 and the 2008 Child Protection Fiji Annual Work Plan (AWP) have been developed to address VAC in Fiji.

The Regional Results Framework outlines the child protection work (including all work addressing violence against children) to be completed by the Fijian Government in partnership with other organizations at national and community level over the next five years. It was developed following numerous consultations with government and non-government partners and community-based organizations and provides the framework for all child protection work being/to be conducted in Fiji.

The AWP for Fiji for 2008 has been developed within this framework, and is the NPA for child protection work (addressing violence against children). The activities, targets, and time frames have been developed following extensive consultations with key stakeholders nominated as responsible parties for implementation. This AWP has been endorsed by the National Coordinating Committee for Children (NCCC), NGO partners and key ministries. The Permanent Secretaries of the relevant ministries will formally sign the AWP agreement later this month to signify the government commitment to the plan and implementation of activities regarding child protection.

By involving the various ministries, NGOs, and community-based organizations in the consultations and construction of the RRF and AWP, inter-agency collaboration is promoted. Having the NCCC as the coordinating body promotes this collaboration as NCCC members consist of government and civil society representatives. The Department of Social Welfare is the primary contact agency (The Chair of the NCCC is also the Director of the Department of Social Welfare). Monitoring and Evaluation will continue throughout the five year cycle.

Recommendations 1, 2, 11 and 12 of the UN Study have been incorporated into the planned activities for 2008.

Baseline research is also being conducted in five Pacific Island Countries - Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands regarding child protection (from Jan 2008 - Aug 2008). This is a joint initiative between UNICEF and the governments of these five countries. In Fiji, Save the Children Fiji has been invited to be represented on the Fiji Task Team and the Regional Reference Group. This is an essential step in addressing the recommendations. The key areas to be addressed in the research are: Societal behaviour regarding child protection (involving extensive field research); Institutional stocktaking of child protection social welfare and protection systems in theory and practice as well as inter-agency collaboration; Legislative and regulatory compliance review. This research aims to review the current situation regarding child protection in these areas, help shape the five-year child protection programmes, provide indicators to measure progress towards building a protective environment for children and to promote further networking, inter-agency collaboration and capacity-building of partners involved in child protection work nationally (and potentially regionally).

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

There has not been an official Government Focal Point/Group appointed for the Study follow-up, although Save the Children Fiji has had discussions with the then Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Housing in 2006 who nominated a government focal point. However, there was no formal appointment made and, as of January 2008, there has been a reshuffle in government ministers and permanent secretaries and Save the Children Fiji is still following up with the ministry on the appointment.

2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

One of the three key areas to be addressed in the baseline research is the review of legislative and regulatory compliance. The expected outcome is for adequate legislative, regulatory, budgetary and policy framework for comprehensive protection of children against all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

The baseline research on which will be conducted on child protection in five Pacific Island countries includes confidential research with children and parents/guardians on violence against children. Save the Children has held initial discussions on facilitating children's involvement in the research, recruiting young people (KLF Alumni) as researchers, and on co-designing and co-facilitating the training of country research teams.

Targeting the child's immediate environment, the research aims to work closely with parents, care-givers and other community members, such as teachers in preventing child abuse and mitigating risks for violence, abuse and exploitation. Findings will be used to build more effective child protection systems in these five countries.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Organisations who work for or with children collate this information for record keeping and programme design. One example is the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. Additionally, the Sexual Offence Unit of the Fiji Police Force carries out full investigation and recording of offences pertaining to children.

Monitoring in relation to child protection is universally weak, with few adequate systems in place and there is a need to strengthen investigation and recording systems. Data collection is often poor, and even where the commitment and capacity exist, capturing child protection information can be extremely difficult due to the nature of many child protection abuses.

The baseline research aims to institutionalize effective systems and services within Pacific Island governments that respond to violence and includes a process of stocktaking of monitoring tools, methodologies and reporting forms. The research will include both review of secondary information as well as primary data collection, reflecting both qualitative and quantitative findings.

3. Social welfare systems

3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The second part of the baseline research will focus on the institutional/systemic causes of the shortcomings in building a protective environment for children in the Pacific. The social welfare system focuses on the range of social services by which a country meets children's basic needs and protects them from violence, abuse and exploitation.

The baseline research intends to explore the mandate and responsibilities of governmental departments involved in child protection at different levels and their practical implementation. This will include exploring the practice and attitudes of key mandated authorities, i.e. social workers and care-givers in residential care institutions, working to both prevent violence, abuse and exploitation of children and to respond to child protection abuses.

The baseline shall stock take of non-governmental actors' role, programmes and level of cooperation with mandated authorities as well as the effectiveness of multi-disciplinary approaches, including aspects of case referrals and case coordination (between the judiciary, social service, police, health, NGO's etc). Institutional, organizational, human resource and financial dimension of the child protection systems, and their effectiveness in providing quality services to children and their families and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for programmes and individual casework is also included in the research. Findings from the baseline research will be used to build more collaborated services for effective child protection systems.

Additionally, an interagency protocol was drawn up a few years ago between the Ministry of Health, Department of Social Welfare, Police and the Ministry of Education to improve the coordination of Fiji's child protection system. This Interagency protocol needs to be re-looked at as it is not being followed effectively to date.¹⁴

3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Organisations working for or with children conduct their own capacity building on issues relating to children through trainings and workshops on a national, regional and international level.

The Fiji Police Force, Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Housing, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education all have specific responsibilities for child protection although the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Housing has more of a specific mandate for child protection under the Department of Social Welfare.

Policies and procedure guidelines are currently in place with the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Housing, Education Youth and Sports and Health, and the Police and Judicial Departments reaffirming the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and members of the extended family and community to provide appropriate guidance and direction to the child.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Ministry of Justice also have responsibilities concerning the protection of children who come into contact with the law particularly in matters concerning custody of the child or if the child is brought into the legal system as a victim or a witness of a crime. Magistrates and Judges also consider the CRC in their ruling within the Juvenile Justice system.

The Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Housing is the secretariat for the National Coordinating Committee on Children, an interagency committee comprised of relevant government ministries, civil society and NGOs mandated by cabinet to oversee the overall implementation of the CRC in Fiji. The NCCC accommodates presentations on any issues pertaining to children at its meetings. Additionally NCCC members have been part of Save the Children Fiji's workshops on Violence against children, Promoting Non-Violent Upbringing of Children and Positive Discipline workshops.

As a result of the stocktaking during the baseline research, it is expected to produce strategic recommendations for addressing identified short-comings, including in the area of human resources, capacity-development, professional training and development of practical tools for enhanced coordination.

¹⁴ Information provided by the Department of Social Welfare.

The research will also produce an overview of the national budget currently allocated for child protection social welfare systems, including cross-country analysis. An analysis with potential costing estimates for the development of well functioning social protection systems dealing with child protection and offer an analysis of the costs involved if investments are not made to strengthening the effectiveness of the system.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There is a serious shortage of specialised professional skills in the areas of child counselling however specific child abuse counselling training is offered as part of the certificate in Social Work offered by the University of the South Pacific.

Various NGOs and programmes have trained community volunteers in facilitation skills to deal with awareness on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education. Some teachers have received basic training in counselling skills and are expected to play a dual role of teacher and counsellor within some schools.

Community education and awareness programmes by all stakeholders including religious groups, school principals and counsellors reaffirm parental responsibilities and offer a range of support services. The Ministry of Youth provides family education to youths and parents through their Positive Mental Attitude Programme that began in 1997.

The Child & Family programme of the Department of Social Welfare handles more focused programmes to strengthen family responsibilities and improve child rearing practices such as counselling services to married couples, adults and young offenders in conflict with the law, and child protection cases in general.

With varying needs of children, there is an urgent need for specialist professional counsellors to provide services for children and families in crisis. Government and non-governmental organizations provide some counselling skills training for staff.

Australian and New Zealand Police have trained their Pacific counterparts through attachments and short courses. Over the past decade, a number of AusAid funded in-country training programmes have been conducted with the police and the police training academies to share strategies developed for dealing with sexual offences against women and children.¹⁵

Civil society and NGOs continue to play a key role in generating awareness and conducting training programmes on child care, parenting and child protection issues with key stakeholders in institutions. The Violence Against Women and Children Task Force is a multi-sectoral committee that works to implement the Women's Plan of Action 1999-2008. Priority focus is a campaign to Stop the Culture of Violence against Women and Children by working with men and the perpetrators of violence. A series of workshop for men was run during the 16 Days of Activism.

¹⁵ Assessing Protective Environments for Children, UNICEF, 2004

Save the Children Fiji plays a major role in awareness on non-violent values and conflict resolution through its workshops on Promoting Non Violent Upbringing of Children and Positive Discipline workshops which are scheduled to begin in April 2008.

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Perpetrators are tried under Fiji's legal system. Whilst there is a legal system for perpetrators to be tried this needs to be further strengthened. Legislation needs to be in line with the UN CRC and other human rights instruments.

Professionals within the legal system including law enforcement and the social welfare system who work with children or handle children's cases also need to undergo ongoing capacity-building, there is also a need for more public awareness on child protection issues.

The Police Sexual Offences Unit that was set up in March 1996 provides specialist services to child abuse victims in ensuring the successful prosecution of perpetrators. The Unit is centrally located in Suva but it provides direct services to outer station.

There is usually media coverage around such cases to keep the public informed. The media must also undergo capacity building in order to improve their reporting on cases involving children.

The current legal provisions for the protection of children are inadequate and are cause for concern. The laws that have been adopted are colonial and should be revised and complied with international standards especially in the protection of children. Laws which do exist need to be enforced and closely monitored by relevant authorities. The Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code contain provisions for the non-mandatory issuance of corporal punishment. The Magistrates Court is entitled by law to impose corporal punishment not exceeding 12 strokes. Corporal punishment may also be imposed for certain prison offences. No attempt has been made to remove the provision for corporal punishment from the Penal Code, to consider its efficacy or compliance with the Fiji Constitution. Although a High Court Ruling in 2001 deemed corporal punishment as going against the provision in Section 25 of Fiji's Constitution and as such corporal punishment in schools has also been deemed unlawful and must not be practiced, although recent research by Save the Children Fiji and others would suggest otherwise

The evidence laws are badly in need of reform. Prosecution of sexual abuse rests heavily on medical evidence and testimony of eyewitnesses, but medical examinations are not always possible or timely and abuse is not always demonstrated by physical indicators. Some medical professionals have expressed an unwillingness to give evidence before the court.

Currently, there is no legislation for mandatory reporting of child abuse cases. However, there is a Mandatory Reporting Protocol signed by the Police, Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health to encourage reporting by the relevant authority if there is suspicion of abuse.

The baseline research on child protection is expected to address these issues.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

As mentioned, the third element of the research will comprise of a legislative compliance review, through which an in-depth examination of the current legislative, regulatory and policy framework in relation to the care and protection of children. This review will assess the legislative and regulatory systems and the extent to which policies, rules and regulation exist that articulate norms and goals that instruct the prevention and response systems that protect children as victims, as witnesses of crimes and as offenders. The baseline research also aims to research government budget for programmes for prevention and early interventions and ongoing response programmes.

Due to the political situation of Fiji at the moment, the interim government does not have the authority to pass legislations therefore passing of legislation will not commence until after a democratically elected government is in place.

5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

This is being done in small pockets and progress is quite slow. There is encouragement and support in areas such as the education system inclusive education representation on student council committees and also in areas of family law with the introduction of the Family Law Act which allows for the consultation of children in certain areas depending on their level of age and maturity.

This will be addressed in the Baseline Research. The RRF also places an important emphasis on the participation of children in national child protection systems at all levels and this must be fully resourced. Key stakeholders working with children will also have to have their capacity built in this area on how to meaningfully and ethically support children's participation.

More resources will need to be allocated for the effective and meaningful participation of children and also wider recognition of children's evolving capacities to contribute to exercising their rights. Save the Children Fiji has also initiated discussions with UNICEF on funding opportunity in the support of KLF branches, these discussions will continue as the baseline research progresses.

Save the Children has been working with KLF which now has expanded with six branches in three areas within Fiji. The idea is to have branches where children in these areas have an opportunity to gather and participate in activities which will empower them to express their views on issues which concern them. Avenues to engage in dialogue with local authorities, such as provincial councils and local government, are also being explored.

KLF and the Alumni (KLF members over 18 years) each have a representative on the National Coordinating Committee on Children and it is anticipated that their views, including those on child protection, will be channelled to this committee through their representation and feedback will be channelled back to the branches via the same representatives. Save the Children Fiji is exploring how this can be more consistent and structured. It is anticipated that this is one of the areas that UNICEF will most likely support following the completion of the baseline research.

5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Child abuse is reported to police, hospitals, the Department of Social Welfare, and Women's Crisis Centre. It is difficult to ascertain the prevalence of abuse as not all cases are reported to the authorities.

Currently, there is no legislation for mandatory reporting of child abuse cases. However, there is a Mandatory Reporting Protocol signed by the Police, Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health to encourage reporting by the relevant authority if there is a suspicion of abuse

There is no common data collection of child abuse cases in the country and the NCCC acknowledges this deficit. There is mandatory reporting required for professional groups working with children, but the Inter Agency Guidelines and police protocols are measures that, if fully implemented, could improve reporting by those professional groups working with children.

The Inter Agency Committee on Child Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment of the NCCC coordinates multi-sectoral collaboration and programme implementation. Current projects include; setting up a common data base for reporting of child abuse cases which will include disaggregated data, promoting a National Advocate for Child abuse and information an educational awareness programmes.

As mentioned above, the Police Sexual Offences Unit provides specialist services to child abuse victims in ensuring the successful prosecution of perpetrators. Although systems are in place, a lot of children either do not have access to such services or do not know that such service exists. There needs to be more awareness on the availability of these services.

The baseline research on child protection is also expected to address these issues.

5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

This is also an area which will be covered in the baseline survey. With regard to women, Save the Children Fiji is involved in the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women shadow reporting process.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

UNICEF and Save the Children work well together generally in Fiji, regarding child protection. No specific activities solely targeting the recommendations have been conducted with Save the Children and UNICEF as joint partners. Save the Children has endorsed the UNICEF/Fiji Government AWP and RRF for child protection in Fiji, formalising the agreement to work together to address child protection.

Both Save the Children and UNICEF form part of the National Coordinating Committee for Children, which focuses on child protection and which has also endorsed the AWP and RRF. The intention is that government partners, NGOs, community organizations and UNICEF will work together regarding all child protection issues in Fiji, with the NCCC consisting of a representative group from government and civil society. The child protection baseline research being coordinated through UNICEF this year is strongly supported by Save the Children and is an essential step in addressing the Recommendations of the Study. Regular consultations between UNICEF and Save the Children Fiji are occurring to further develop and undertake this research.

Hong Kong

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The Violence Study has not been launched in Hong Kong.

1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

The Violence Study has not been translated.

1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

There has been no promotion or dissemination of the UN Violence Study.

2. National policy and legal systems

2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There are no existing national plans.

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

There are no efforts to develop a NPA for the implementation of the study recommendations.

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

No official government focal point has been pointed,

2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Against Child Abuse (ACA) has urged the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government to outlaw corporal punishment as a form of violence in response to the first anniversary of the release of the UN Study. We started an endorsement campaign calling for a ban on corporal punishment in October 2006. There are more than 400 groups and individuals supporting the campaign. They come from political, legal, educational, medical, social welfare

and religious sectors as well as the general public. The Chairperson of Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, Mr ChongYiu Kwong, prepared a paper to analyze the necessity of legislation prohibiting corporal punishment with reference to the Hong Kong context. The ACA appeal was also sent to the Bar Association and Law Reform Committee. The appeal has been widely circulated among their members inviting comment. We also observed important individuals, such as the chair of the Hong Kong Council of Social Services, signing the endorsement.

A press conference jointly held on 18 October 2006 by ACA, Dr. Edward Chan of the University of Hong Kong and Dr Hon Fernando Cheung, Legislative Councilor, called for a ban corporal punishment of children to actualize zero tolerance of violence.

A press release was also prepared on 19 October 2007 (Day of Action) to urge legislation to ban corporal punishment.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

A survey on parents' views on legislating against corporal punishment was conducted between November 2006 and April 2007. About half of the parents and 75% of the secondary school students surveyed supported outlawing corporal punishment. 315 completed questionnaires were collected as at the end of March 2007. A press conference was held on the SpankOut Day.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.
The government is piloting a fatality review to investigate and record of child deaths which may caused by violence.

3. Social welfare systems

3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There were efforts to lobby government and legislators to set up a Child Commission which in turn contributed to the passing of a motion urging the government to set up a Children Committee on 8 June 2007. The push for this was observed recently when legislators on child advocates urged in the Legislative Council that a platform for children be set up under the Family Council formed in 2008

3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

A Sharing Forum was held on 21 November 2006 to share the global progress towards stopping VAC and share views on banning all corporal punishment of children in the community, including at home. 32 multidisciplinary participants attended.

A Train the Trainer Workshop on Positive and Non-Violent Childrearing was conducted on 28 February 2007 for professionals with 74 participants.

1,000 copies of Training Kit on Positive and Non-Violent Childrearing were published in March 2007 to provide a framework and useful information and materials for social workers, teachers and related professionals to conduct parent education training programmes.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

- 4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

15 free talks for parents and parallel talks for children and their parents were delivered to 365 parents and 165 children between December 2006 and March 2007 as part of an appeal to stop corporal punishment towards children, to enhance the parents' understanding of positive child discipline and to teach children their rights and responsibilities.

10,000 sets of promotional materials "A Bright World with No Violence" (a memo pad with a message card) were produced in February 2007.

- 4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

We have conducted two therapeutic groups for the parents who used to apply corporal punishment to their children.

5. Cross-cutting themes

- 5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Upon hearing tragic cases in the media and from child advocates, communities have started to see the importance of prevention and importance of promoting non-violent values in striving towards a non violent environment for children. The Head Start programme to support pregnant families has been introduced and it is estimated that in 2012 it will be conducted for every family with a new born child.

- 5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

This agency (ACA), UNICEF Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Committee on Children Rights, with the funding of Home Affairs, launched active child participation programmes in the past eight years. Other NGOs also have conducted programmes to ensure participation for children. This began with the UN Child Ambassador programme, Child Councillor programme, and evolved to the child-led "Kid's Dream" mechanism, designed and executed by children.

- 5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

In Hong Kong, a Committee on Child Abuse has been in place since the eighties, with representatives from various government departments, NGOs and ACA. A set of handling procedures of child abuse has been revised and professionals briefed on how to work together. ACA hotline encourages reporting and consultation from adults and children.

5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

Women groups are quite strong and outspoken, thus helping to push for changes in laws and services to prevent domestic violence and abuse. ACA helps to make children's concern known even if they observed violence and not directly physically hurt.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

UNICEF Hong Kong joined the three agencies collaborative service but because of human resource constraints may stop such collaboration in the near future. There is no Save the Children Office currently established in Hong Kong.

Indonesia

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The UN Study report was launched by the Minister for Women's Empowerment on 23 November 2006 in commemoration of the World Day for Child Abuse Prevention. Representatives from government institutions, children NGOs, and media were present and the launch was supported by UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International, UNESCO, World Vision International, IDP Norway and YKAI (a local NGO). A press conference with the Minister and representatives from the supporting organisations followed the launch.

The core message used was based on the report «zero tolerance for violence against children». A campaign was conducted stressing the need to end violence against children. Public statements were delivered to the media. Several children from project sites of international and local NGOs conducted workshops among themselves to identify the forms of violence children face and how to solve them from children's perspective. These workshops were conducted together with support from Save the Children, UNICEF, World Vision, Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Plan International and the government.

1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

UNICEF and World Vision translated and published the summary of study in Bahasa Indonesia, it was distributed nation wide.

1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

In 2006, a working group consisting of NGO's, INGO's and government provided opportunities for public consultation and socialization on the study.

The translated version of the summary was disseminated in all provinces. Apart from the UN Study Report, a book on the results of the children's consultation at national level and in 18 provinces as part of the process for the UN Study in 2005 was also published by UNICEF and disseminated to children and parliament. The children's consultations were supported by the Ministry for Women's Empowerment in collaboration with UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, Plan International, Christian Children's Fund, local child protection institutions and the local government.

Save the Children UK translated the Save the Children advocacy material "Save the Children's Key Recommendations in Response to the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children" into Bahasa Indonesia and placed a full page article of these in the local Tempo magazine.

In 2007, Save the Children UK visited with Bella Dinniyah Putri, the young woman who had been part of the initial regional consultation with children to get an update from her on her work on VAC and her perspective on how the recommendations from the study were being met.

2. National policy and legal systems

2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

In addition to the Child Protection Act (Law 23) adopted in 2002, Indonesia also adopted a Domestic Violence Act in 2004 (which includes a focus on eliminating violence in the home) as well as the Protection of Victims and Witnesses Act (which has a focus on the protection of victims and witnesses of reported cases). The adoption of these legal frameworks has contributed to improving responses to victims of abuse and violence. Specifically, a joint-Ministerial Decree of the Ministers of Health, Social Welfare, Women's Empowerment and the Head of the National Police resulted in the establishment of integrated service units at police stations and public hospitals for victims of violence for women and children. A Women and Children's Desk was also established in police stations at provincial and district level.

Indonesia also has three national plans of action. The NPA on Child Labour is under review and the NPA on Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation are currently being reviewed based on the new Anti People Trafficking Act 2007.

In collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry of Health adopted a training manual for health professionals to "recognize, refer and report" cases of violence against children. In addition, the Ministry of Health adopted technical guidelines on referral for health professionals down to community health centres.

UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Education has integrated and developed "child abuse prevention in schools" information for teachers in-service training packages on "Creating Learning Communities for Children" - in an effort to develop child-friendly schools and to improve the quality of education in Indonesia.

Despite the above achievements, the major obstacles faced include the lack of systematic reporting mechanism on cases of VAC. This is compounded by a culture that accepts violence as a form of discipline and as a means to enforce education to children. In addition, budget allocated for the implementation of such initiatives are quite low.

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

In Indonesia, a NPA on the elimination of VAC was developed by the Government during the UN Study process but has not yet been adopted by the Government. The draft NPA has programmes of prevention, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration, child participation, coordination and partnership. The NPA mandates provincial and district levels to formulate their own Local Action Plans that should be based on the NPA. The finalisation and harmonisation of the draft took a long time, the final draft is now being reviewed at the State Secretariat level.

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

The Ministry of Women's Empowerment has a Deputy Minister for Child Protection who is responsible for the monitoring and co-ordination of the implementation of the UN CRC, Child Protection Law 23 (2002), and other child protection-related documentation such as the UN Study. UNICEF has been working closely with this Ministry on the draft NPA on the elimination of violence against children.

KPAI (The Indonesian Commission for Child Protection) reports directly to the President and is responsible for the delivery of Law 23/2002 and the ratification of the UNCRC at a regional and national level. Their work should also include the delivery of the recommendations from the UN Study. Recently, KPAI has undertaken a strategic planning exercise where VAC is one of its major priorities.

Save the Children works with both KPP and KPAI and has been part of working groups that are focused on moving the Government of Indonesia's ratification of the UNCRC from a Presidential Decree to Law and the full ratification of the Optional Protocols. Save the Children UK has also advocated with other INGO's for the recommendations from the UN Study to be part of the next governmental report to the Committee of the UNCRC.

2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There is currently a working group of INGO's, NGO's, and governments advocating to upgrade the ratification of the UNCRC in Indonesia from a Presidential Decree to Law, this work also includes advocating for the full ratification of the two Optional Protocols (on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict).

A recent analysis was undertaken by Pak Irwanto from Atma Jaya Catholic University for Save the Children UK to look into concepts of child protection in Indonesia and the legal and policy framework for the child protection system. This preliminary study will set the basis for further analysis and discussions among agencies working in child protection to determine what strategies could be adopted to strengthen the child protection system in Indonesia.

Indonesia has adopted Elimination of Domestic Violence Act in 2004, the Protection of Victims and Witnesses Act in 2006 and the Anti People Trafficking Act in 2007. These laws are enforced in conjunction with the Child Protection Act. Compared with previous years, cases of VAC reported by the media have increased. The challenge is, the laws need to widely disseminated,

the capacity of law enforcers needs to be built and public awareness of the laws needs to be increased.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

The Quality of Care Research into Institutional Care across Indonesia was undertaken by Save the Children UK, DEPSOS (The Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs) and UNICEF in 2007.¹⁶

Maluku Safe Schools Study (2007)¹⁷ was undertaken by Save the Children and is a child-facilitated research into conditions of schooling in Maluku Province.

The Child-Led Research in West Kalimantan and Maluku¹⁸ was conducted by Save the Children and DEPSOS (the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs). This work supported children in institutional care in two provinces to identify and share issues faced by them and other children in institutional care. The children are now being supported to put forward their findings and recommendations to key duty bearers.

Save the Children also conducted several pieces of research related to VAC. The study on physical and emotional punishment was carried out in Maluku, North Maluku, and West Timor to support the UN Study.¹⁹ The Save the Children UK field office in Maluku has undertaken research into the Effects of Inter-Communal Tension, Violence and Dislocation on Children's Lives. From this research, we found that children who were caught up in the conflicts are still suffering many deprivations and problems that are a consequence of the violence and destruction that occurred from 1998 to 2003, and again in 2004. Children were involved in the conflicts in many different ways. Some of them were victimised, or witnessed the horrors that occurred. Others engaged actively in the violence, or participated in support roles. The ongoing consequences of the disaster on the lives of large numbers of children are still impacting these children in terms of their physical and mental health, education, family life, social and relationships and development.

In 2006, UNICEF in collaboration with the University of Atma Jaya conducted a study on VAC at home and in school in the provinces of Central Java, South Sulawesi and North Sumatra. A specific study on "custom-based violence against children" was done in East Sumba, East Nusa Tenggara in 2006.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF is promoting the reporting and recording of cases of VAC including child death. However, systematic mechanisms are yet to be developed.

¹⁶ UNICEF, *Someone that Matters: The Quality of Care in Childcare Institutions in Indonesia*, Save the Children UK, The Ministry of Social Affairs (DEPSOS), 2007, UNICEF, Indonesia.

¹⁷ Save the Children UK, *Safe School: A Child Facilitated Research in Ambon, Maluku*, Save the Children UK, 2007, Indonesia.

¹⁸ Save the Children & Ministry of Social Affairs, *The Child-Led Research in West Kalimantan and Maluku*, Save the Children, The Ministry of Social Affairs (DEPSOS), 2007, Indonesia. (Not yet published)

¹⁹ Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden

3. Social welfare systems

- 3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The coordination function is one of the major components of the draft NPA on the elimination of violence against children. Currently, this function is being carried out by the Ministry for Women's Empowerment at national level and by the Bureau for Women's Empowerment in selected provinces.

Additionally the Child Protection Act, Chapter 11 sets out the provision for establishing an independent Commission on the Protection of Indonesian Children. This has been achieved through the setting up of KPAI - the Indonesian Commission for Child Protection.

- 3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Quality of Care research conducted in 2007 was itself a major capacity building process involving staff from the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Government School of Social Work (STKS) and other universities including the University of Indonesia and the Islamic State University. The teams were trained and developed essential knowledge and skills regarding international standards relevant to alternative care and carrying out in-depth qualitative assessments of residential care services. Some team members were also trained and involved in supporting children in institutions to carry out their own research which involved crucial new skills in relation to working with children. Following the Quality of Care research, the Ministry has agreed to the development of Standards of Care for children in institutions and the establishment of a regulatory system. This work will be carried out in 2008 and include key stakeholders who will be involved in the implementation of the standards and their monitoring.

UNICEF in Indonesia, in collaboration with relevant ministries and NGOs, supports building the capacity of health workers, law enforcers, teachers, social workers as well as children and community to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation. Relevant training materials were specifically developed for police, health workers, teachers, social workers, community and advocates. A child-friendly manual was also developed for children to empower them to communicate and advocate for their rights. E-learning training material is currently being developed as part of the emergency preparedness for humanitarian workers. This material has included the issue of abuse and violence in emergency settings.

Save the Children is promoting an organisational toolkit which provides training on how to develop child safe organisations. The toolkit was developed in conjunction with ECPAT and is currently being disseminated.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

- 4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry for Women's Empowerment launched a national campaign on the prevention of VAC aired in five major television stations, radio networks and in the print media. The campaign reached 71% or 2.2.million of the target audience. Leaflets and

brochures were also developed to reinforce the campaign and distributed to parents, communities, children, etc. In addition, Indosat - one of the biggest cell phone providers in Indonesia supported this campaign by broadcasting a "text" on the prevention of VAC " to about six million of its subscriber around the metro Jakarta area.

UNICEF works with the Ministry of Education to integrate the principles of "child abuse prevention in schools" into the national training programme, to improve the quality of Education by putting an emphasis on alternatives to corporal punishment. In addition, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry for Women's Empowerment, developed leaflet on alternative to corporal punishment for parents and caregivers as well as early detection of sexual abuse with accompanying information on relevant institutions providing referral services for survivors.

Save the Children UK works with schools, teachers, school committees and school supervisors to promote positive forms of discipline and the elimination of physical punishment in schools. Law 23/2002, article 54, clearly states that children must be protected against violence and abuse from teachers, school managers, and schoolmates both in the schools and in other educational institutions. However, the Ministry of Education is doing little to socialise teachers, schools and educational institutions on this.

Save the Children UK also participated in a talk show on Metro TV with national coverage about children's experiences of violence in conflict areas. This aimed to encourage the audience to promote non violence.

In the Save the Children UK Maluku field office, based on their research of violence in school, children developed drama as a media campaign through radio. The idea of drama came up from children and was published in 3 local radios in two months

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of VAC are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Child Protection Law 23, the Domestic Violence Act 2004, the Protection of Victims and Witnesses Act 2006 and the Anti People Trafficking Act 2007 all have measures to ensure perpetrators of VAC are held accountable. Both the Law on Child Protection and the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence outline specific criminal acts and subsequent terms of imprisonment/punishment should they be convicted. However the major obstacles faced in enforcing these laws is the capacity of the family to report cases, the capacity of law enforcers, no mandatory reporting, minimal prosecution and limited community awareness of the community.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Prevention is one of the major components of the draft NPA on the elimination of violence against children. Prevention as in the draft NPA will focus on challenging social norms which tolerate VAC as well as to enhance the capacity of parents and community on effective and friendly child rearing practices.

- 5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

Children were the major stakeholders in the drafting and finalisation of the draft NPA on the Elimination of VAC led by the Ministry for Women's Empowerment. The challenge is there is no concrete strategy to mainstream children's participation at a national and sub national level. In selected provinces, UNICEF, in collaboration with the provincial child protection bodies the Bureau for Women's Empowerment, facilitated the establishment of a children's forum. This forum conducts regular campaign and advocacy on the prevention of violence. In addition, the forum conducts peer education especially in schools and in the community for at-risk children.

- 5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There is a Women and Children's Desk in all District level Police Offices as well as an Integrated Service Unit established at police offices and hospitals providing support for reporting and referring of cases of violence against children. These services are managed professionally by trained staff. The integrated service unit for example has a multi-disciplinary team working closely to provide medical, psycho-social and legal support to the victims. The major challenge is that units are mostly located at provincial level and only very few located at district level and systems of reporting vary from district to district.

In 2006, UNICEF supported the Indonesian Commission on Child Protection to develop a database and technical guidelines to monitor and report the violation of child protection rights. The software and the technical guidelines have been disseminated at a sub national level.

In addition, the child helpline 129 was introduced by the Ministry for Women's Empowerment, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Information, Telecommunication Company and Plan International in four selected provinces.

- 5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

An analysis on the different risks facing boys and girls was done in the light on the UN Study in 2006. Currently, UNICEF and UNFPA are designing a pilot initiative to engage boys and men to take a leadership role to address violence in West Nusa Tenggara province.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

- 6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

UNICEF and Save the Children collaborate to build the capacity relevant government ministries to follow-up on the UN Study.

Japan

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

There has been no official action to launch of the UN Study report.

1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

The Japan Committee for UNCIEF issued a press release and featured the report on the internet ²¹

1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

There has been no promotion of the UN Study on a large scale except for what is mentioned in 1.2.

2. National policy and legal systems

2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The government has yet to introduce the CRC in any national plans. It revised the Child Abuse Prevention Law last year to strengthen legal enforcement relating to children's issues. With this law, the child guardian's centres will inspect abuse cases more effectively (in other words, the law gives the centres authorities to undertake investigation without parents' consent) and the revised law explicitly states that the law protects child's rights and interests. However, nothing has been initiated with reference to corporal punishment explicitly.

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

We are not aware if the government has developed (or is in a process of developing) a plan that follows the recommendations of the UN Study or not. However, the government has taken actions to detect child abuse relatively at an early stage, by making use of prevention networks that consists of those working for and with infants and children.

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

There is no single focal point, nor is there a group specifically set up to follow up UN Study. The administrative system of central government is large and complex. In fact, we have to access to many divisions and sections in deferent ministries to raise even a single issue sometimes. However, we have had some access to those same divisions and sections for discussions on the UN Study.

²¹ The report can be viewed at http://www.unicef.or.jp/library/pres_bn2006/pres_10_3.html.

- 2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The revised law of preventing child abuse, which is mentioned in the 2.1, will be enforced from April 2008 onwards.

- 2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

There is no such confidential research planned or underway.

- 2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Family Registry Law requires us to submit notification to the municipality office with a death certificate written by a medical doctor. However, this doesn't mean that full investigation is mandatory in all child death cases. Homicide or violence cases are only recorded using the statistics of age, cause and other data.

3. Social welfare systems

- 3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

At provincial level, there is a protection network system by which 98% of the nation is covered. The initiative was led by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

- 3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

A variety of training is given by central government bodies, using affiliated institutes, and many municipal governments. Some of them are very practical, but sometimes they are not comprehensive and are not based on a human or child rights framework.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

- 4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There are many parenting and educational guides and workshops provided by both governmental bodies and private organizations. However, there are few emphasizing non-violent values. Child Assault Prevention (CAP) is the only well-known training on non-violence and human rights which offers practical solutions to both children and parents, including teachers.

- 4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The government is responding to growing public and international calls to strengthen law enforcement with regard to perpetrators of violence against children. For instance, the ruling parties are preparing to revise the Act on Punishment of Activities Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children to penalize mere possession of child pornography. The Japan Committee for UNICEF, in partnership with various civil society groups, NPOs and individuals, and with support by a several IT giants and major media, will launch advocacy campaign to further promote public calls to support this and to support the private sector's initiative to protect children (e.g. filtering and blocking of child pornography sites on the internet).

5. Cross-cutting themes

- 5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

At provincial level, there is a protection network whose members are teachers, doctors, NGOs, social workers, academia and public officers. The initiative was led by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

- 5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

As far as we know, no concrete initiative involving children and young people is in place.

- 5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Yes, there is a legal obligation to investigate reports. However, we can not be absolutely sure that investigators can meet children's needs and investigate in an appropriate manner. They are too busy at work and a shortage of workforce. We are sure that they have professional training regularly though.

- 5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

As far as we know, there is no such initiative. What we know is that the government has established the Gender Equality Bureau in the cabinet body. It coordinates elimination of violence against women but doesn't cover issues relating directly to girls under 18 years of age.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

UNICEF Tokyo, Japan Committee for UNICEF and Save the Children Japan have exchanged some information to date. We will consider up-grading the level of exchange to a formal partnership.

Korea

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The UN Study was officially launched on 24 November 2006. There was also an official publication of the Korean version of "Positive Discipline" as a follow-up of the UN Study with the title of "To Create a World Without Violence and Fit for Children" on 22 November 2007. These were hosted by Save the Children with assistance of the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

The Study has been translated into Korean.

1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

Save the Children Korea translated the UN Study and Positive Discipline into Korean and held a launching ceremony for both the publications. Over 100 persons including government officials, NGOs, journalists, social workers, children, house mothers, families, and parents with children attended. They were reported on progress in follow-up to the UN Study on VAC and briefed about positive discipline as an alternative of corporal punishment.

Save the Children Korea has distributed the Korean version of Positive Discipline to relevant organizations and also conducted training workshops for those working at a child care institution on positive discipline under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Health and Welfare in order to cultivate a positive nurturing environment without violence against children.

2. National policy and legal system

2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Government of Korea has endeavoured to implement the CRC and to provide itself with a legal arsenal to prevent violence against children. Nonetheless, Korea has not yet formulated a national action plan specifically on children and corporal punishment is not explicitly prohibited in Korea. Corporal punishment is lawful within the home in Korea. Children have limited protection

from violence under the Child Welfare Act, the Penal Code, the Special Act on Punishment of Domestic Violence, and the Act on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Victim Protection, and the Constitution. In school settings, corporal punishment is accepted as a disciplinary measure for the purpose of education and there is no explicit prohibition of corporal punishment in alternative care settings.

The influence of culture is an obstacle to legally prohibit violence against children. Parent-child relationships are hierarchical. People still do not fully accept children as rights-holders and parental rights are very strong compared to those of children.

However, a series of the recent reported cases of VAC have aroused people's attention on the issue and the Korean government has planned to amend the Child Welfare Act in order to better promote the rights of children.

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

Although a Plan of Action has not developed yet, the Government of Korea supports NGOs, in particular Save the Children Korea, in promoting awareness-raising on the elimination of VAC and enhancing the capacity of all who work with and for children.

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

The Child's rights Team of the Ministry of Health and Welfare is in charge of children's rights in general. However, a focal point for the study follow-up has not specifically appointed.

2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Korean government has planned to amend the Child Welfare Act in order to better promote the rights of children. A public hearing on it is held in 15 February 2008. It is hoped that a legislative amendment would increase awareness-raising, establish systematic education, prohibit corporal punishment, promote full investigation of cases of VAC and strengthen punishment for perpetrators.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

In 2005 Save the Children Korea conducted a survey on the status of corporal punishment in Korea as part of a comparative study of children's experiences in eight countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.²¹ Save the Children constantly collects and analyzes cases of VAC through I-Call, a counselling service and five affiliated institutions in the area of child protection.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Ombudspersons do not have the authority to investigate. The police, the prosecutors, and the judiciary are involved in investigations. However, a full investigation often fails to be carried out,

²¹ Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden

which is often due to their lack of human rights sensitivity and understanding of the seriousness of violence against children.

3. Social welfare systems

- 3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Child's Rights Team of the Ministry of Health and Welfare is responsible for child protection policies. Child protection agency is dealing with child abuse, protecting against, and providing aid in the recovery of abused and neglected children. The national child protection agency coordinates the work of local child protection agencies. 44 local child protection agencies nationwide receive reporting on child abuse cases and respond to emergencies.

However, not all cases involving corporal punishment are viewed as child abuse since it is not explicitly prohibited under the law and children have only limited legal protection from violence.

- 3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

As follow-up of the UN Study, Save the Children Korea has conducted training workshops for children at an institution for those working at child care institutions and for government officials on child's rights, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Welfare, funded by Community Chest Korea and the National Human Rights Commission. The purpose of the workshops is to cultivate a positive nurturing environment without violence against children. 800 children in institutional care, 2907 principal directors and 240 government officials received training.

In addition, Save the Children Korea also provided training on positive discipline for nursery teachers, social workers and parents.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

- 4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Although it is a concern that children and the public at large, as well as those working with and for children, are not sufficiently aware of non-violent values, parenting and education, the government supports and mobilizes NGOs when it comes to awareness-raising and education. Campaigns against child abuse are waged by various organizations. Many organizations provide prevention education for children, parents and those working with and for children but Save the Children Korea is at the forefront in promoting non-violent values and an alternative way of upbringing to corporal punishment.

- 4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

While much focus has been given to the victim with regard to violence against children, Save the Children has come up with more comprehensive strategy and conducted rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators. There are, however, a number of obstacles including low education level, financial problems, alcohol or mental disorders and low participation.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Child Welfare Act was amended in 2000 in order to strengthen child abuse prevention. Child protection agencies and help-lines were established according to the revised Act. As part of prevention measures, on the job training for those working and for children is stipulated in the Act. Though cultural values and social attitudes that sanction the use of VAC still prevail, law and policy put importance on prevention, which will hopefully lead to the alteration of social norms.

5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

Not only with regard to VAC but also to children's issues in general, there is little child participation. However, Save the Children Korea tries to have children and the youth get involved in the process of eliminating violence against children. There was a composition and painting contest on "a world without violence and fit for children" for the children at a child care institution as part of the activities at the celebration of the publication of Positive Discipline in Korea on 22 November 2007. 109 children participated in the contest and received awards.

5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

According to paragraph 26 of the Child Welfare Act, anyone can report and those working at schools, child care institutions, victim support facilities, kindergartens, and hospitals must report suspected cases of child abuse to child protection agencies or investigation agencies. However, under the current law, there is no provision stipulating punishment for those responsible for reporting and referring cases of child abuse who do not fulfil their obligations when in possession of knowledge of child abuse cases. Cases can be reported through help-lines; 129, 1577-1391, or 1388. However, those are not free of charge and 129 is not for children only.

Reporting of cases is followed by assessment and then appropriate services are provided. Follow-up measures are taken up to 6 months. There is, however, a lack of high qualified human resources.

5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

According to statistics, there is no clear gender division of the victim. However, the leadership structures with men in the most powerful and influential positions are dominant, and people often tend to think that results from male superiority over female since Korea has long been a society

characterized by dominance of men. In particular, although most of the victims are girls and women, sex offences against female are not often regarded as serious.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

Since early 1950s, right after the Korean War, Save the Children and the UNICEF have closely worked together. In particular, the two organizations have taken the initiative in promoting awareness-raising and implementing of the UN CRC. Save the Children and UNICEF co-published the Korean version of the UN Study in Korea in 2006. In addition, both collaborate for full implementation of the CRC as the secretariat and the chair of the NPO Coalition for UN CRC Implementation respectively.

Lao PDR

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The study has not been officially launched in Lao PDR. The Lao government was not able to provide inputs to the UN study, and so far has not officially acknowledged the study. Although there were initiatives to respond to questions regarding the study, answers to these questions remain pending and have yet to be approved. Because of this, there have been constraints in using the Study in addressing violence, and any follow-up work on the recommendations of the study in Laos. The actions taken in relation to the promotion of the UN Study are listed by organisation:

Save the Children Norway

However, effort has been made mainly from international organisations to inform government officials at central and local levels about the UN Study on Violence. Within Save the Children Norway programme work, some findings of the UN study (for example forms of violence, its impacts and settings violence takes place) were included in the training on protection of children from violence and positive discipline provided to Ministry of Education: 54 Convention on the Rights of Child trainers from 17 provinces of the country and 53 preschool teachers in Luang Prabang province, during the period of July to August 2007. In addition, copies of the UN study were distributed to key government partners: Ministry of Education, the National Commission for Mothers and Children, the Ministry of Justice, and the Lao Youth Union.

UNICEF

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice in three workshops to discuss Government's response/s to the questionnaire for the UN study in 2005. However, the approval of the final document remains pending in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to date.

Despite the pending approval of the document, UNICEF supported a study on children's perspectives on VAC in homes and schools in May 2007. This study covered 20 schools (ten primary and ten secondary) in five provinces. The results of the study were presented in a stakeholders' meeting in July 2007 have been translated into the Lao language. Official approval

of the study is pending. The study was entitled 'Research on VAC in Schools and Homes' and was conducted by the Ministry of Education.

The Lao Women's Union (LWU), with support from UNICEF conducted a meeting amongst key actors to present the results of the study to a wider audience, including professionals, on 28 February 2008. The meeting will include initial preparation for a strategic plan for future directions to address the issue of VAC. The meeting is scheduled. Participants were senior government officials and technical staff from the Lao Women's Union, Ministry of Public Security, the People's Supreme Prosecutor, Supreme Court, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, National Commission for Mothers and Children, Lao Youth Union, UN organizations and INGOs.

Save the Children Norway and UNICEF have been talking about joint activity but because of the pending approval of UN Study there has been no translation of the UN Study to date. UNICEF has produced a child-friendly version of the Summary Report on "The East Asia and Pacific Regional consultation on Violence against Children" to be used by young people in disseminating information on violence against children. The child friendly version was intended to be used by the young delegates who represented Laos PDR during the regional consultation on violence in their dissemination activities.

1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

SCN and UNICEF have been talking about a joint activity but because of the pending approval of UN Study there has been no translation to date.

1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

UNICEF has produced a child-friendly version of the Summary Report on "The East Asia and Pacific Regional consultation on Violence against Children" to be used by young people in disseminating information on VAC. The child-friendly version was intended to be used by the young delegates who represented Laos PDR during the regional consultation on violence in their dissemination activities.

2. National policy and legal systems

2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Children (Children's law) and the Law on Development and Protection of Women together with the NPA Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 2007-2012, address all forms of violence in selected provisions and chapters.

These legal documents indicate responses to the issue and are being disseminated as widely as possible. The NPA against Human Trafficking, which is being supported by UNIAP, and is now in its final stages of development, has integrated responses on VAC as well. The plans also include children's participation in the process of planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of activities against commercial sexual exploitation of children and trafficking. It identifies roles and responsibilities of each concerned ministry and mass organizations, as well as encourages cooperation and coordination between the government agencies and international organizations. However, these plans do not adequately provide a comprehensive framework for addressing all

forms of violence, especially corporal punishment. Despite this gap, the Ministry of Education has issued a decree banning corporal punishment in schools.

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

Save the Children Australia has appointed a child Protection focal point person to start to implement the child protection issue

Although the study has not been officially launched in the country and the government has not officially accepted the UN Study, UNICEF's plans and activities specifically with the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare and Justice and the Lao Women's Union (LWU) have indicated the Government's interest in promoting and raising awareness on VAC. As mentioned above, one of the results of the workshop on VAC to be conducted by the LWU will be a strategic plan/plan of action to address the issue of violence. Moreover, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in establishing and strengthening Child Protection Networks (CPNs) addresses the issue through their trainings of and advocacy to the CPNs focal points and members. To date, there are 75 networks in five provinces in the country. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice and Lao Women's Union are supported by UNICEF in the dissemination of the Children's Law and Women's Law with both laws having provisions on violence. These are being disseminated in nine provinces in selected districts and communities.

Meanwhile, high-level advocacy meetings are being conducted for the approval of the Lao version of the UN Study. Specifically, the UNICEF Representative included this issue in a briefing to the high level Lao delegation who represented the country in the recent UN Special Session on Children last December 2007. In addition, no less than three meetings with LWU officials have been conducted to discuss the importance of the study.

Save the Children Norway has made efforts in encouraging the concerned government bodies, especially the National Commission for Mothers and Children (NCMC), to take action as following-up on the UN study's recommendations.

However, given the lack of input to and official recognition of the UN study by the Lao PDR government, it is awkward and sensitive to refer to the study in addressing violence in Laos. Instead, at the country level, the Children's Law and the Law on Development and Protection of Women (which covers human trafficking and domestic violence) are the key references for dealing with violence. Therefore, attempts have been made to disseminate the laws and to create an enabling environment for a more comprehensive programme (please see below). In this regard, action to sensitize the general public and government officials on VAC issues, its various forms and impacts has taken place as well as building network amongst international agencies working on child protection related issues.

In addition, Save the Children Norway was in close contact with the National Commission for Mother and Children regarding the appointment of the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General, by providing relevant information and meetings. During the process leading to the appointment of the Special Representative, the Lao government had no objection to the appointment.

After considerable Save the Children Norway engagement in meetings and in lobbying with the National Commission for Mothers and Children, it is now planned that a meeting on VAC will be organized with concerned ministries and organisations during the first half of the year 2008. The overall objective is to follow up on the UN study's recommendations and the implementations of

the Children's Law, and the Law on Development and Protection of Women. However, the specific objectives of meeting will be further developed based on the outcomes of the meeting that will be organized by the Lao Women's Union, with support from UNICEF, in February 2008.

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

Since the Ministry of Justice responded to the questionnaire on the UN study, it would seem like the Ministry of Justice and the National Commission for Mothers and Children are the focal points for the UN Study. It is anticipated that the upcoming meetings (see 1.1 and 2.2) during the first half of 2008 could lead to a more concrete actions in follow-up on the UN study. Please also see 1.1.

2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Law on Development and Protection of Women was passed in 2004. The law includes protection of women and children from trafficking and domestic violence. It clearly defines of trafficking and violence against women and children as well as the rights of the victims, duties and responsibilities of the society, prosecution of offenders and official assistance to the victims, measures against violators/offenders. Two year later, the Children's law was passed by the National Assembly in December 2006. The law does not give clear definition of violence but states roles of duties bearers, such as the state, community, parents and teachers, in dealing with violence against children. To date, there have been no amendments to these laws.

UNICEF is currently supporting the Ministry of Justice in drafting the implementation decree of the Children's Law through consultations and workshops and technical assistance in outlining important elements of the decree. An elaboration or details of the provisions referring to VAC is expected to be integrated into the implementation decree.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

With support from UNICEF, a study on VAC in schools and homes was conducted by the Lao Women's Union and the Ministry of Education in May 2007.²² The overall purpose of the study was to raise awareness on violence issues and to examine some of its contributing factors. This was not an empirical or exhaustive study, but rather a first step to raise consciousness and generate attention on VAC within Laos. The research activities sought the experiences of children on physical, psychological, and sexual violence as they perceived and experienced such occurrences at homes and schools, and how these experiences affected their human dignity and personal integrity. Teachers were consulted in separate focus group discussions to gain an understanding on how they as teachers and adults perceived VAC, and to record their recommendations on sustainable responses. The results of the study, together with the UN study will be presented in a workshop on violence on 28 February 2008.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There is no systematic investigation, reporting or recording of deaths of children caused by

²² Lao Women's Union and UNICEF, *Children's Perspectives on Violence against Children in Homes and Schools*, 2007, Lao PDR, UNICEF.

violence. However, the UNICEF study shows that the isolated cases of deaths were reported to the police and investigations were done. Unfortunately, these cases were not followed up.

3. Social welfare systems

3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

UNICEF supports the Counselling and Protection Centre for Women and Children and the establishment of counselling rooms in five provinces: Oudomxay, Vientiane province, Savannakhet and Champasack and Vientiane Capital City. These rooms are used to provide counselling to women and children victims of trafficking and violence. The centre and counselling rooms at central and provincial levels accept request/complaints from the victims, mediate cases and provide free legal assistance. The UNICEF support also focuses on trainings of staff, monitoring of cases and referral activities. The Counselling and Protection Centre, which is under the Lao Women's Union, is the first ever centre of its kind in Lao PDR. The centre plays an important role in providing psychological help, health counselling, and legal advice for women and children victims of trafficking, violence and sexual abuse.

3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Both UNICEF and Save the Children have been working extensively in capacity-building.

The concept of positive discipline and the Children's Law were introduced to Save the Children Norway staff and government counterparts, especially those at the Ministry of Education. It was organised as a specific session at the Mid-Term Programme Meeting, Annual Education Planning Meeting. Over 100 educational staff from the Ministry of Education at central and local level from 17 provinces were present and there was also Training of Trainers sessions on the CRC as well as training with preschool teachers.

Save the Children Norway has been developing a partnership with the Faculty of Social Science, National University of Laos. The aim is contribute to the development of child protection system in Laos, by supporting training of qualified professionals for working with children and youth, so as to implement the Children's Law. The faculty is currently developing its social work education and the support from Save the Children Norway is directed at child- centred aspects of the social work curriculum. As mentioned above, the Children's law provides a framework for dealing with violence against children. Initiatives at country levels also benefit from the international commitment on violence against children. To some extent, the UN study and global movement contribute to creating momentum, provide useful information for advocacy efforts, and programme development at national level.

With support from UNICEF, a National Workshop on Child Protection was conducted in August 2007. About 90 people from different organizations working in child protection, including governmental and NGO organisations from central and nine provinces participated in the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to increase awareness and understanding of child protection as it relates to children victims or survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation, including children in emergency situations, and to strengthen the capacity of service providers to support the recovery and integration of children victims of violence, abuse and exploitation including situations of emergencies. Another objective was to develop a child protection

framework towards the promotion of the overall well-being of children victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. With continuing support from UNICEF, the Lao Women's Union, in collaboration with NCMC, plans to initiate the development of a child protection policy in the middle of 2008 as a follow-up of the national workshop.

As mentioned above, UNICEF continues to support activities on dissemination of the laws and trainings on para-social work to improve knowledge and responses to cases of violence against children. This includes medical and referral services.

Regarding obstacles to capacity building work and addressing VAC in general, the main concern is the lack of awareness on violence, particularly its forms and consequences. In addition, there is a lack of information on settings where violence occurs, notably corporal punishment. Few studies have been carried out on violence in Laos. Some forms of violence, such as bullying, pornography and violence observed in the media, are very much under-recognized as forms of violence, and its impact is only marginally understood. To a large extent, violence is viewed as irrelevant in Laos. Many key government partners are rather reluctant to address violence. While the UN study has had international weight for dealing with violence against children, it has not been widely discussed and disseminated in Laos. Although the Children's Law is a critical platform for child protection work, at the moment the Ministry of Justice is in the process of drafting the law implementation decrees. Only once this process is completed, hopefully within 2008, further work on the law implementations and dissemination to other relevant government partners, communities and children and youth can take place.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Children's Law and the Law on Development and Protection of Women provide the framework for addressing violence in Lao PDR. The Children's Law in particular indicates the need for establishment of Child Protection Committee at the community level, as well as for the first time recognizes the roles of social workers in supporting and protection of children and youth at risks. The law also states roles of parents/legal guardians, schools and communities for protection of children from violence. The law on Development and Protection of Women clearly addresses trafficking of children and women, domestic violence, and the need to establish support networks for women and children at-risk of being abused and exploited.

One of the recommendations of the *Study on Violence against Children in Homes and Schools* conducted in 2007 is awareness-raising about violence against children. Following the recommendations of the study, UNICEF supported a consultation meeting to discuss the contents and illustrations for IEC materials on violence against children was conducted; the plan is to produce a poster, cartoon book and some radio/TV spots or programme on violence in 2008. the meeting came out with the recommendation that:

- The IEC will be produced target in adult and children
- The messages on four major issues (based on the aforementioned study) should be developed: prevention of arguing and fighting between parents; prevention/stop shouting/beating children by parents and adults; prevention arguing/fighting among youth/children; sexual harassment.
- The IEC will be distributed to schools and in communities

- The IEC for school will be a poster and cartoon book (story on VAC with illustration/picture)
- IEC for community will be radio/TV spots/short drama.

Regarding positive factors and obstacles please refer to number 3.2

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The perpetrators of VAC are held accountable by specific laws, especially the Children's Law and the Law on Development and Protection of Women.

Under the Law on Development and Protection of Women, neighbours, family members, other individuals or organizations discovering, knowing the violence problem should provide assistant to the victims and report the case to authorities. The law state clearly about the measures apply for the perpetrators:

- Article 48 Measures against offenders
- Article 49 Criminal measures on trafficking in women and children
- Article 50 Measures against domestic violence against women and children
- Article 51 Criminal measures to prosecute people who fail to assist victims
- Article 52 Measures relating civil responsibility relating to infringements on women's rights and interests.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Children's Law and the Law on Development and Protection of Women provide the framework for addressing violence. The Children's Law in particular indicates the need for establishment of a Child Protection Committee at the community level, as well as for the first time recognizes the role of social workers in supporting and protecting children and youth at-risk. The law also states roles of parents/legal guardians, schools and communities for protection of children from violence. The Law on Development and Protection of Women clearly addresses trafficking of children and women, domestic violence, and the need to establish support network for women and children at-risk of being abused, and exploited.

As mentioned above, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is establishing and strengthening Child Protection Networks (CPN) as part of the prevention in addressing the issue. This is done through their trainings of and advocacy towards the CPN focal points and members in the villages. To date, UNICEF has supported the establishment of 75 networks in five provinces in the country. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice and Lao Women's Union are supported by UNICEF in the dissemination of the Children's Law and Women's Law with both laws having provisions on violence. These are being disseminated in nine provinces in selected districts and communities.

5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

The participatory methods work used in the Lao study on violence was the best way to involve children in the study. It was best as it fully engaged children in the research process and provided

a safe environment for them to express what they believe duty bearers can do to resolve the issue. UNICEF and LWU agreed that children and young people must be meaningfully involved in promoting and strategising action on violence against children. Thus, the research took on a three-fold purpose; first, to raise awareness on VAC in Laos; second, to provide an evidence base for programming and policy making, and third; to enable children to exercise their right to participate in all matters that concern them. In addition, as mentioned above UNICEF has produced a child-friendly version of the Summary Report on "The East Asia and Pacific Regional consultation on Violence against Children" to be used by young people in disseminating information on violence against children. The child friendly version was intended to be used by the young delegates who represented Laos during the regional consultation on violence in their dissemination activities.

With the lead of Save the Children Australia, and ILO, as well as support from UNICEF, UNIAP, and VFI, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and the Lao Youth Union organized youth forums (the latest was in the last quarter of 2006) to heighten the awareness of children's issues in the country and violence was among the important issues raised by children. Following this forum Save the Children supported children and youth from Laos to attend a Regional Children's Forum against human trafficking.

As early as 2005, UNICEF supported the capacity building of more than 600 young persons aged 13-17 years old for youth consultations conducted to determine the knowledge and views of the young people on various topics about child rights, including violence. The youths who participated came from university and secondary school students. These resulted in the production of leaflets, radio programmes (drama and radio spots) to disseminate information. Radio dramas and spots have been adapted to local languages where appropriate. Ten stories with five spots each were produced in Lao, Hmong and Kmu languages. Moreover, 24,000 leaflets containing messages on violence and child rights and 1,000 story books have been distributed during the campaigns and sent to Children Culture Centres in seven provinces: Vientiane, Oudomxay, Sayabouli, Vientiane province, Vientiane capital and Champasak. To ensure that information is provided for both in-school and out-of-school youth in remote areas, a total of 30,000 leaflets and 1,000 story books have been printed and distributed throughout the country.

5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The government has taken initial steps to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children and women. According to the law, LWU is designated as the agency responsible for monitoring and report the implementation of the law as well as the protection of the women and children. The relevant articles of the Law on Development and Protection of Women are:

Article 44. Rights and duties of managing and monitoring organisations

The managing and monitoring organisations prescribed in article 43 of this law, have the duties to implement regulations, measures and the work of managing and monitoring the development and protection of women within the limitation of their rights and duties.

Article 45. Rights and duties of the central Lao Women's Union

In managing and monitoring the development and protection of women, the Central Lao Women's Union has the following rights and duties:

1. To study, to formulate draft policy, plans, projects, regulations and laws that are related to the development and protection of women and to submit these to concerned organisations concerned for consideration;
2. To propagate the party's policies, state laws and regulations concerning the development and protection of women;
3. To provide counselling on the rights and benefits of women and children;
4. To give directives, monitor, inspect and encourage implementation of guidelines, laws, plans, projects on the development and protection of women and children within the frame of their responsibility.
5. To suggest or to give advice to parties concerned, to resolve unlawful acts and report back, about resolution, within 30 days from the day of receiving the proposal. In cases where there is no solution or the solution is inappropriate, the Lao Women's Union has the right to appeal to higher authorities for consideration. If such act is serious, the Lao Women's Union has the right to propose to a police officer to take criminal investigation according to the laws;
6. To coordinate with parties concerned on managing and monitoring the implementation of the development and protection of women and children;
7. To conduct evaluations and report on the implementation of guidelines, policy, regulations and laws on development and protection of women by coordinating with the parties concerned;
8. To perform other rights and duties as prescribed by regulations and laws.

Article 46. Rights and duties of Lao Women's Union of the sectors and local levels

In managing and monitoring the development and protection of women, the Women's Union of the sectors and local levels have the following rights and duties:

1. To study, propagate, disseminate and to implement the policies, laws and regulations, plans and projects concerning the development and protection of women;
2. To provide counselling on the rights and benefits of women and children;
3. To give directives, to monitor the implementation of regulations, laws and other works on the development and protection of women and children within the frame of their responsibility.
4. To suggest or give advice to parties concerned to resolve unlawful acts and report back, about resolution, within 30 days from the day of receiving the proposal. In cases where there is no solution or there is an inappropriate solution, the Women's Union of the sectors and local levels have the right to appeal to the higher authorities next to those organisations for consideration. If such act is serious, the Lao Women's Union has the right to propose to a police officer to undertake a criminal investigation according to the laws;
5. To coordinate with parties concerned on managing and monitoring the implementation of the development and protection of women and children;
6. To conduct evaluation and report of the implementation of guidelines, policy, regulations and laws on development and protection of women by coordinating with the parties concerned;
7. To implement other rights and duties as prescribed in regulations and laws.

As of 2007, the Counselling and Protection Centre for Women and Children reported that 929 cases were referred to the centre with about 3,460 counselling sessions were provided to the victims. In addition, the centre also provided temporary shelter to 23 victims (including 22 female), out of this 18 victims were children (including 1 boy). Referral of cases are usually done through coordination with the police, hospitals or by family members. Although there is no systematic referral procedure yet, it is expected that the development of guidelines will soon follow as soon as the child protection policy is drafted. In addition, together with UNIAP and IOM, UNICEF is supporting the government in drafting victim protection guidelines, specifically for trafficking, but will also cover referral of those victims of violence.

5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

The *Study on Violence against children in Homes and Schools* conducted in 2007 found that there are more girls who become victims of violence - sexual harassment, rape, and bullying and hitting - than boys. As a result, one of the recommendations of the study is to ensure that anti-violence policies and programmes are designed and implemented from a gender perspective, taking into account the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence. Based on this specific recommendation, action plans/ strategic plans will seriously consider the gender dimension of violence against children.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

Save the Children Norway initiated the formulation of an informal group of UN agencies and international non-government organizations involved in child protection in August 2007. This network of organizations was established to provide a venue of exchange and discussion of current child protection issues in Lao PDR. Apart from Save the Children and UNICEF, eight other organizations are involved so far: Afesip, Church World Service, Friends International, Handicraft International-Belgium, Norwegian Church Aid, Plan International, Save the Children Australia, and World Vision. The group meets very two months, and it is to be a forum for to share information, discuss common concerns and issues, and identify potential collective actions.

In addition, UNICEF and SCN had a bilateral meeting where potential areas of cooperation were identified. And these are: to support the establishment of child protection networks at community level, a joint development of positive discipline manual for Lao context, following up on the UN study, and the dissemination of the Children's Law.

Mongolia

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

- 1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The national launch of the UN Study was held on 14 November 2006 with official openings by the Deputy Prime Minister, National Authority for Children and UNICEF. Also, other partners, notably ILO/IPEC, Save the Children Finland (UK), WVI, WHO cooperated in organizing the events.

- 1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

The UN Study (brief report) has been translated into Mongolian. The child-friendly version of the UN Study report was also translated Mongolian.

- 1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

The UN Study was translated into Mongolian and 5000 copies have been disseminated nationwide during and after the launch. The child-friendly version was translated Mongolian and 5000 copies have been distributed during the launch and to children in school, care centres, and elsewhere nationwide.

2. National policy and legal systems

- 2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The National Programme of Action for the Development and Protection of children for 2002-2010 reflects objectives to protect children from violence, particularly focusing on the prevention and protection of children from violence in the home, at schools and the social environment. It also seeks to build protective measures, conduct surveys on the types of the violence against children, and take action to improve the related information network. It seeks to extend training and information on VAC and run activities to increase public awareness and capacity as well as provide services to children victims of violence.

The Law against Domestic Violence was approved by Parliament in 2004 and provides the legal framework for fighting violence against women and children. The NPA on the implementation of the Law against Domestic Violence was approved in 2007 and Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs is the ministry responsible for its oversight.

Data development on child protection is essential in order to have valid information and data on violence against children. Child protection data including violence data are drafted and are in the process of being discussed.

Among the obstacles is the poor coordination among the agencies to promote the implementation of laws and national plans. There is no coordinating agency or unit within the government to deal with child protection issues. Also, allocation of funds is inadequate for child protection services.

There needs to be common understanding and agreement on what child protection system in Mongolia should adopt and who should provide different services needed for children who experience violence.

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

So far, there is no plan of action for implementing of the Study recommendations and it's not on the agenda of the government. But the recommendations are incorporated in the action plans of sectoral agencies.

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

At the time of the government response to the UN Study, the National Authority for Children (NAC) was identified for coordination of the report writing. NAC continues to be the focal point for the Study follow-up. NAC is the agency in charge for monitoring the rights of the children overall within the Government of Mongolia. During the report preparation process, UNICEF provided technical support and coordination with the focal point.

2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

One of the positive factors is the approval by the Government of the NPA on the implementation of the Law against Domestic Violence.

Amendments to the Law on Education on prohibiting corporal punishment in schools have been approved in 2006. But further endorsement and monitoring of the implementation is the challenge.

Currently, there is a working group established to amend the Law on Family Law and the Save the Children together with relevant agencies and organizations that is actively advocating for ban of corporal punishment at home.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

In 2006, Save the Children facilitated the first child-led study on *Children Living in Difficult Circumstances in Mongolia*.²³ The research was conducted by children with institutional care centre and street life experience. The children worked together to identify research goals, methods, and to develop interview questions. They collected and processed data, analyzed and prepared the report and presented findings to the public. The study found that children experience some forms of abuse or neglect almost all the time at home or institutions such as schools and other places they go.

In October 2007, children who had participated in the study wrote a letter to "big bosses" to present and reiterate the findings of their study. The letter and findings of the study were presented to relevant Ministers and all the members of the Parliament. The letter requested prioritizing ending violence against children.

²³ Save the Children UK, *Children Living in Difficult Circumstances in Mongolia*, 2006, Mongolia, Save the Children UK.

Save the Children is also undertaking a baseline study in relation to violence against children. The report will be ready by the end of March 2008 and some of the issues that will be explored are knowledge of children on their rights to be free of violence, corporal punishment and to be protected, profile and experiences of abused, exploited and neglected children, knowledge of children about the existing services, satisfaction of children with quality of the services attitude of parents and care-givers towards the issues of child abuse, parents' knowledge and use of positive disciplining etc.

- 2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.
- No data on child deaths occurred by violence is available.

3. Social welfare systems

- 3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The National Authority for Children is a coordinating agency for child protection issues at the national level and it has branches in all aimags (provinces) which are responsible for the monitoring child protection issues, including violence. Some violence cases are identified by the NGOs and prevention measures are taken.

The obstacles are:

- 1) Lack of a comprehensive child protection system in place, both at the central and local levels;
- 2) Lack of preventive measures on violence; and 3) lack of coordination among the relevant stakeholders.

The National Authority for Children and Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor has stressed the importance of child protection system and services and the need to strengthen current structures in place. Therefore, there is room for strengthening and improving current structures.

Currently, there are government social workers at the local level, however, they are working with more of administration paper work rather social work cases. The roles and responsibilities of those at the local level needs to be clarified and their capacity built.

- 3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

A series of trainings on introducing VAC to different target audience, including law enforcement agencies, local administration staffs, teachers, social workers, NGO representatives, have been conducted.

Manuals on VAC for service providers were developed and we are now in the process of conducting Training of Trainers. Save the Children has also developed a child protection curriculum for social workers in collaboration with universities and piloted them at two state universities and we anticipate that it will be incorporated at other schools that prepare social workers. Further to this, Save the Children has supported capacity building of 40 social worker educators and practitioners in child protection through series of training on child care and child protection issues in 2007.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There has been an assessment of the media programmes on violence issues conducted by Ministry of Social Welfare in 2007.

A 16-day campaign on gender based violence has been promoted among children, particularly focusing on children in schools, child care centres. Awareness on protecting from violence among 9000 children of schools in Ulaanbaatar city has been promoted for the last three years from 2005-2007.

Information education communication (IEC) materials, street boards, TV programmes and newspaper articles, public service announcements (PSAs) on violence and non-violent values have been developed, broadcasted and distributed amongst different target groups. Peer educator awareness on non-violent values and violence issue have also been supported and promoted. Non-violent environment for children have been promoted in children summer camps, where teachers and children both participated actively in the creation of these environments. Within the education system, the parenting education programmes are in process of being developed.

Save the Children undertook a number of activities under the 19 October campaign to end violence against children. Some examples include the 20 minutes' TV talk show 'Children learn from life' and a TV programme on positive discipline focusing on amendments of the Education Law which includes corporal punishment ban was done and broadcast by local TV in Dornod province, Mongolia.

Training on amendments to the Education Law and positive disciplining was conducted for 170 children, 52 teachers and social workers and 61 parents. These were first steps towards raising public awareness on Education Law amendments and promoting positive disciplining in Dornod Province, Mongolia.

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Criminal Code, Law against Domestic Violence and Education Law provide the legal framework, however the implementation of these laws is lacking. A review of implementation was been conducted end of 2007 and findings will be presented in the first quarter of 2008.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Prevention measures of VAC are one of the weakest components in the legal and policy framework. However, some efforts at the community level have been undertaken, which are ad hoc based, not systematic and regular.

5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

During the process of reporting to the UN Study, children were active participants. Also, child-led researches have been undertaken. Children were the peer educators on non-violent issues in different settings. The Child and Youth Participation Policy endorsed by the cabinet in 2007 and is awaiting parliamentary endorsement.

A pilot project aimed at strengthening capacity of Aimag Children's Councils in Mongolia is implemented to foster good governance and accountability. National Authority for Children is the leading agency for promoting the child participation. Young journalists became peer educators on preventing child violence at the selected areas.

About 80 children from suburban districts of Ulaanbaatar, including a few street children and some disabled children gathered together to show their views on environment they live in through drama plays. The theme was "What difficulties children face and why?" or "When children are most happy and why?"

Children's views (short commentaries) on a poster "One day of a child" that show violations of child rights and positive attitudes towards them have been published on a "Daily News" newspaper twice a week as a series. About 70 children's voices will be heard by the public through the newspaper.

The "Focus on kids" photo project and the "A happy and safe family" radio project children (35 children) organised a photo exhibition and launch meeting with media and government officials for their new book "We want a happy and safe family..." developed by themselves. This meeting was jointly organised with the children who undertook the child-led research. Children presented their concerns on children living in difficult circumstances. Although many invitees (government officials) didn't turn up for the meeting the Deputy Chair of the National Authority for Children (NAC) and Adviser to the Minister of Social Welfare and Labour provided positive response to the children's letter and promised to take necessary actions. During the meeting, the children had the opportunity to present their research findings to each other and adults present including Save the Children staff, government agencies and interested individuals. The children also had the opportunity to raise questions and problems they face and they exchanged views with each other and other adults on ways to solve and overcome those problems. They talked about VAC at schools, home and on the streets and stressed their frustration that alcoholism is ruining people's lives and ruining society. The children also talked about the problems street children face. They noted that children don't leave home on their own and but rather difficult family circumstances make it impossible for them to stay at home.

Children's representatives met with the head of the Department of Social Policy in Dornod Province and presented an appeal developed by children - "Listen to children - Today is the Global Day to End Violence against Children!" In November and December, some representatives of the aforementioned mentioned children accompanied by Save the Children UK staff further met with Mr. G. Bayasgalan, the State Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs and Mr. S. Lambaa, the Head of the Parliamentary "Lobby Group on Children's Development and Protection" regarding their concern about corporal punishment of children, implementation of newly amended Education Law, etc. Following it up their letter and voices conveyed in their report and photo book were disseminated to all MPs through Mr. S. Lambaa.

Save the Children in Mongolia actively promoted child participation and children seem more empowered to act for protecting their rights to be free of violence. As a result of the support and encouragement by the SC, new initiatives by the children are arising e.g. few children wrote a letter to protest the recent child abuse case in a school by a teacher. About 500 children support this initiative and signed up. The letter was published on a newspaper.

- 5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Criminal Code provides the legal framework for legal obligation to investigate and report in the cases of rape and violence affected on the health conditions. However provisions for implementation are lacking.

- 5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

The UN Joint Programme on the Gender-based Violence plans to implement a gender-based violence study in order to address the gender dimension in 2008. During the 16 days campaign of 2007, Men's Association (NGO) played active role in promoting the violence issues.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

- 6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

Mainly UNICEF and Save the Children Finland (UK) are collaborating in the area of advocacy. Although there are not so many joint activities, each of the agencies incorporated into their work plans actions to the follow-up of the UN Study.

New Zealand

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

- 1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

There was no official launch in New Zealand.

- 1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

There have been no translations made. English is spoken by most people with the exception of immigrants, although some important documents are translated into Maori, the indigenous language of Aotearoa New Zealand.

- 1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

There has been no formal promotion or /dissemination of the Study although some NGO's, notably Save the Children and UNICEF make reference to it in advocacy work.

2. National policy and legal systems

- 2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

New Zealand has an official work plan in response to recommendations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in their country report. There are various strategies that are congruent with recommendations made in the UN Study but none explicitly arising from the study.

- 2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

No plan of action developed to specifically implement the UN Study.

- 2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

No group has been appointed.

- 2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

New Zealand achieved a significant milestone last year when it introduced legislation to ban physical punishment of children. A raft of other legislation protects children in all settings.

- 2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

Various researchers conduct research into aspects of children and violence from time to time. We are unable to provide a full list of such research at present. We have a national clearinghouse on violence that collates research on family violence.²⁴

- 2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

New Zealand has legislation that has established a Child Mortality Review system that includes violent deaths. This is largely a statistical review. Work is underway to establish a more intensive mortality review of all family violence related deaths including those of children.

3. Social welfare systems

- 3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

²⁴ The website of the clearing house is www.nzfvc.org.nz.

New Zealand has a well-established statutory child protection system that does include elements of prevention as well as response to violence/abuse. NGOs also work in this area. Reducing violence to children is currently a subject of both government and non-government activity. Despite this New Zealand has a high rate of child abuse for a developed nation. It was third worst on the UNICEF league table of child deaths from maltreatment in OECD countries in 2003.

3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Many organizations provide internal and external training about aspects of violence towards children especially child abuse and children affected by domestic violence. A Government initiative "Strategies with Kids: Information for parents" (SKIP) encourages positive non-violent parenting at both a national and community level. The regional health boards also have public health nurses that provide training on how to identify child abuse and neglect and how to respond if it is detected. Last year an initiative to establish a national infrastructure to train people who work with children who witness family violence was established.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

SKIP (see above) has resources e.g. booklets and funds local community based programmes. There is a major government family violence prevention "It not OK" campaign that uses TV, radio, print media currently being implemented. In the near future it will take a particular focus on reducing violence to children. We have national child service providers such as Plunket that deliver parenting programmes. There is also funding for smaller providers to deliver parenting programmes in prison environments etc.

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Perpetrators of violence are held to account in New Zealand through the judicial system and child protection system. A review of the Domestic Violence Act 1995 and related legislation has just been conducted and the results published soon. There are recommendations to improve the accountability of perpetrators who breach bail conditions and a recommendation has been made that Police can arrest and hold a perpetrator for 72 hours if there is reason to believe that the victim is in danger of abuse. Police now record children who are present at Domestic violence incidents and referrals are made to Care and Protection agency if warranted. The review also recommends that perpetrators are charged if they abscond from attending a non-violence programme.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Prevention is being prioritised through the legislation recommendations described As above and by SKIP (the Ministry of Social Development), the "Its not OK" campaign (run by the Families Commission) and the child protection service "Everyday Communities" (run by the Ministry of Child, Youth and Family). These all involved raising awareness at a local community level of the unacceptability of violence to children.

5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

Children are not systematically involved in national actions although some individual programmes exist to teach children non violent skills such as peer mediation, keeping themselves safe and bullying reduction. The National Network of Stopping Violence Service has a youth project.

5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The child protection service (Child, Youth and Family service) includes provisions for reporting and investigating violence to children as does the police service. Increasing numbers of referrals indicate a greater willingness to report on the part of the public. All referrals accepted by the service must be investigated. Others are referred to agencies in the community. There is no mandatory reporting - rather the government chose to instead educate those that work with children and families about the importance of making referrals to the child protection system when child abuse is suspected (Public Health Education Team - part of CYF).

The Act that underlies the child protection system "The Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989" is a good act but the service is seen as constantly overloaded and sometimes criticized for not having the capacity to respond adequately.

Children's needs to access the services and support they need are sometimes unmet. Services available do not always adequately meet demands made on them.

5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

No particular efforts in this area (in regard to children) at present. The "Its not OK" campaign has taken a particular focus on reducing male violence. The National Network of Stopping Violence Services runs services and programmes aimed at assisting men to address their violence.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

UNICEF and Save the Children New Zealand have a close working relationship. They are both involved in an NGO initiative called "Every Child Counts" which aims to increase political awareness of children's issues including reducing violence to children and placing children at the centre of public policy.

In summary it is true to say that the UN Study on Violence to Children has not been a particularly central part of reducing violence to children in New Zealand although there are various initiatives underway that are congruent with its recommendations. There is heightened public awareness of violence to children (arising in part from media publicity about cases of child abuse) and various government and non-government initiatives are in place to respond to the issue and/or reduce violence. These include a recent indigenous effort to reduce child abuse. Nevertheless rates of violence, particularly physical and sexual abuse are disappointingly high.

Papua New Guinea

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

- 1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The UN Study was officially launched in Port Moresby on International Children's Day, 20 November 2007. This launch was a partnership between the Department for Community Development, UNICEF, and Save the Children. Speakers at the launch included Dame Carol Kidu, Minister for Community Development, Mr Joseph Klapat, Secretary for Community Development, Peter Raynes, Acting Country Programme Director Save the Children, Dr. Jacqueline Babcock UN Resident Coordinator, and Margarita Harao and Nos Werao two youth representatives who Save the Children supported to attend the 2005 Bangkok regional consultation. Approximately 50 schoolchildren participated in the launch of study. All were provided copies of the study for their schools, as well as a child-friendly version of report for themselves. The launch was held at Parliament House to signify the significance of the issue and to enable Members of Parliament to participate in the event.

In 2006, to mark the day of the international launch of the UN Study, UNICEF and the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary launched the *Police Policy and Protocols*, a handbook for operational police on working with children in conflict with law. The launch is part of an ongoing and larger campaign to reduce opportunities for police VAC.

- 1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

No translation of the study has been undertaken.

- 1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

Information, education and information materials with messages promoting non-violence were disseminated during and after the launch in 2007, including pamphlets on non-violent parenting, bags, rulers, pens, wristbands, and posters. A four-page newspaper supplement outlining study recommendations and findings was printed in a national newspaper. A multi-media awareness campaign was held in conjunction with the launch, reaching 2.1 million people by radio, over 1.7 million people through television and 55,000 people through print media, of which approximately 75% are women and children. On the same day, six provinces conducted awareness campaigns focusing on the prevention of VAC, which included child participation in activities. This media coverage included television, a four-hour radio programme, radio talk-back with child representatives, and television commercials by UNICEF and Save the Children on VAC. Children participated in several activities to disseminate and promote the UN Study report.

2. National policy and legal systems

2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Papua New Guinea does not have an explicit national plan on the CRC.

The Papua New Guinea Parliament passed the Lukautim Pikinini Act (Child Protection Act) on 26 April 2007. The objective of this Act is to protect and promote the rights and wellbeing of all children regardless of gender and to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination, with a clear focus on services for prevention and family strengthening. The major provisions of the Act relating to the UN Study are addressed more fully below in section 2.4.

Key national plans developed to address the needs of children, such as the *Four Year Strategy on the Protection, Care and Support of Orphans and Other Children Vulnerable to Violence, Abuse and Exploitation* and the *National Action Plan Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation*, encompass a child rights approach. They also include strategies to prevent VAC through strengthening the protective environment for children and implementing the rights based child protection legislation. To a somewhat limited degree, mainline government agencies have mainstreamed the UN CRC into their corporate plans, policies and legislation.

The Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, the National strategy on gender-based violence, incorporates issues of VAC into their activities, and works closely with People Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACSE) to strengthen strategies addressing VAC. The Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee has been involved in establishing Family Support Centres in some hospitals, with plans to expand this programme to establish centres in every province. These centres provide a 'one-stop shop' model of service delivery for women and children experiencing family or sexual violence.

A number of current government initiatives are showing good results for children:

- Preventing violence, abuse and exploitation of children is now a national priority and has been codified through the *Lukautim Pikinini Act (Child Protection Act) 2007*.
- Reforms to the juvenile justice system have led to a 62% reduction since 2004 in the number of children given a remand or custodial sentence, thus reducing substantially, opportunities for police VAC.
- The Child-friendly Schools Project is making schools safer for children with less corporal punishment and increased awareness of children's rights by students, teachers and communities.

Against this positive backdrop the situation for children remains precarious and violations of their rights is of endemic proportions. Many children in Papua New Guinea are vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation. These children include orphans from causes other than AIDS; adopted and fostered children; street children and those neglected and abandoned; children living in violent homes; sexually exploited children; children living with a disability; and poor children. Children in these situations have a heightened vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation, which also renders them more likely to be affected by HIV, a fact that only reinforces the need to ensure their protection.

Table 1: Other vulnerable children in Papua New Guinea²⁵

Category	2005
Orphans from other causes than HIV and AIDS	210,600
Adopted and fostered children	110,000 to 570,900
Street children, homeless and abandoned children	10,000
Children living in violent homes	827,500 to 1,344,600
Children at risk of sexual exploitation	1,311,040
Poor children	798,624

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

The current national plans developed to protect vulnerable children (*Four Year Strategy on the Protection, Care and Support of Orphans and Other Children Vulnerable to Violence, Abuse and Exploitation and the National Action Plan Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation*) incorporate several recommendations of this study already. The government focal point for the UN Study advises that it lacks the capacity at this point in time to develop another national plan without further progressing the current plans as mentioned above. Furthermore, the government believes that the establishment of key child protection mechanisms, through the effective implementation of the *Lukautim Pikinini (Child Protection) Act*, will see further implementation of the recommendations from the study.

Save the Children and UNICEF are committed to assisting government to implement the recommendations of the study, and will encourage government to engage with these recommendations and respond accordingly.

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

The official Government Focal Point is the Office of the Director of Lukautim Pikinini, which comes under the Department for Community Development. Save the Children and UNICEF sustain frequent contact with the Office of the Director of Lukautim Pikinini.

2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Papua New Guinea Parliament passed the Lukautim Pikinini Act (Child Protection Act) on 26 April 2007. The objective of this act is to protect and promote the rights and wellbeing of all children regardless of gender and to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination, with a clear focus on services for prevention and family strengthening.

²⁵ Hunter, S. (2006). Families and Children Affected by HIV and AIDS and Other Vulnerable Children in Papua New Guinea. Port Moresby: UNICEF.

The major provisions of the Act relating to the UN Study include:

- A "child" is defined as a person under the age of 18 years, previously set at under 16 years.
- The objectives and general principles have been redrafted in accordance with the CRC, including promoting the best interests of the child
- The function of all bodies established under the Act and the key duties of all personnel have been harmonised to "prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination against all children"
- Wellbeing is defined as "includes the absence of extreme poverty, ill health, violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, fear and conflict and the presence of peace, health, civil relationships with others, opportunities for emotional, physical, intellectual and creative expression and fulfilment and the opportunity to realise the rights provided through the Convention on the Rights of the Child".
- Establishment of a new definition of "children with special needs" includes children vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation and orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS and children with disabilities.
- New sections have been added on the participation of children in all decisions affecting them, and on non discrimination against them.
- Prohibition of orphanages and other institutions in favour of "out of home care."
- Orphanages and other such institutions are now prohibited.
- "Harmful child labour" is considered an offence, and parents and companies can be prosecuted.
- Equal access to education for both girls and boys
- Harmful traditional practices are outlawed
- Director has responsibility to ensure all children in care know their rights and are protected from violence, abuse and exploitation.

An operational plan to give effect to the Act is being developed in 2008.

Other significant legislative reforms are in progress to strengthen the legal framework for children experiencing violence. The draft *Juvenile Justice Act* (2007), emphasises the diversion of children in conflict with law away from the formal justice system and prevention of juvenile crime. The legislation is based on the CRC and have mechanisms to address reports of violence and other abuses of children. In terms of juvenile justice, evidence suggests that further behavioural intervention with police is required to ensure implementation of the new law. There remains a need to increase the commitment and capacity of officers at all levels of the justice system to improve the protection of children from violence and to respond appropriately to instances of VAC within a child rights framework.

Awareness campaigns have led to increased reporting of VAC, which is a positive factor in delivering greater support to children experiencing violence.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

Save the Children are currently engaged in a *Child Rights Situational Analysis in Eastern Highlands Province, East Sepik Province, and National Capital District*, which will include activities with children age 8 - 18 to elicit their views on their lives and communities. VAC will likely be one topic that arises from this research. The situation analysis will also conduct focus groups with various duty-bearers.

The Government of Papua New Guinea and UNICEF are currently jointly conducting a *Situation Analysis for Children, Youth and Women in Papua New Guinea*. This situation analysis is a comprehensive assessment and analysis of the current status of the rights of all children, youths and women including highly disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable groups such as populations living in remote areas, settlements and refugee children in PNG. It will document the issues and the causalities for the unrealised rights of children, youth and women as well as progress made over the past years to improve their situation. Both children and duty bearers are being researched, and VAC will be analysed.

UNICEF is supporting the National Research Institute report on the extent of VAC. Focus groups, one to one interviews, and a range of confidential processes have been used. The research is complete and the analysis of the data is in progress. A full report on the research should be available by the end of 2008. It will be used to support the Department for Community Development to conduct research on the Situation of Children Living and Working on the Streets during 2008.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There is currently little investigation or recording of child deaths in which violence may have played a role, except in cases where the child in question was already reported to the Office of the Director of Lukautim Pikinini as a child in need of protection. The establishment of Provincial Lukautim Pikinini Councils, which will commence in 2008, provides a possible mechanism for such reporting and investigation, and Government will be supported by UNICEF to explore the capacity of these bodies to undertake such a role.

Media coverage on VAC and child deaths in which violence may have played a role has provided some positive pressure to raising concerns around child deaths.

3. Social welfare systems

3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The United Nations system in Papua New Guinea operates as 'One UN'. The GoPNG and UN Country Programme 2008 - 2012 is themed around national building and a specific priority is the strengthening of essential services (education, health and protection). Preventing and responding to VAC is one of the UN programme priorities.

During 2008, the Department for Community Development is beginning to implement the *Lukautim Pikinini (Child Protection) Act 2007*. As per this new legislation, the establishment of National and Provincial Lukautim Pikinini Councils will provide a statutory unit for the coordination and oversight of child protection issues at the national and provincial level. The Department for Community Development continues to lead government coordination of policy and national plans to prevent VAC, as well as continuing their statutory work to respond to and monitor VAC. The Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee and People Against Child Exploitation provide leadership and coordination of policy and advocacy on these issues within civil society. Save the Children and UNICEF will both continue working with government and civil society to strengthen the coordination of child protection approaches. Save the Children will continue to

advocate for the elimination of VAC, the inclusion of children and their voices in all initiatives to end VAC, and for Government to follow up on UN study recommendations.

3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Government has identified the crucial role that communities and faith- and community-based organizations play in the protection of children and families. As such, many government programmes are supporting decentralized activities that build on the strengths and capacity of local community actors to engage in the protection of children. For instance, the Department for Community development and the National AIDS Council are training faith-based organizations to respond to the needs of orphans and other children vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation. The Department is also currently developing a training manual on the *Lukautim Pikinini (Child Protection)* Act for professionals in contact with children.

Supported by six provincial technical advisors, the Village Courts Secretariat has conducted child protection training for all Village Court Magistrates in a total of 12 village courts in the five districts, and an equal number of women and youth leaders. Based on the UNICEF Protective Environment for Children Framework, the Triple A (Assessment, Analysis, Action) Community Consultation tool and using a Human Rights Based Approach, this training has supported village level magistrates and the community leaders to identify a range of community-based initiatives to strengthen the protective environment of a total 71,000 children across these districts, including putting up signs that advise communities that serious offences will be referred to higher courts and conducting awareness campaigns in market places.

Save the Children is currently evaluating a Child Trauma Counselling programme, with the manual being finalized. Save the Children will support the training of trainers for child welfare officers and the strengthening and support of the network of existing Child Trauma Counsellors. Additionally, Save the Children will conduct positive parenting training for their staff, and the staff of their partner organisations.

While some communities and individuals have expressed a desire to improve their parenting skills, there remains little societal pressure to reduce VAC, and physical assaults on children are sometimes still considered 'discipline'. Churches at times reinforce the notion of corporal punishment.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

To facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education, Information Education Communication (IEC) materials are being distributed by Save the Children, including pamphlets on non-violent parenting. UNICEF and Save the Children have supported television advertisements about VAC. Oxfam is currently working in Southern Highlands and Simbu Provinces on conflict resolution training. The UNICEF supported Village Courts Child Protection Training incorporates the development of community-led initiatives that promote non-violent conflict resolution and non-violent values.

Strong networks within civil society, for example People Against Child Exploitation and the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, provide strengthened awareness-raising, such as the

16 Days of Activism campaign that takes place annually. Several obstacles hinder these efforts: there remains little societal pressure to reduce violence; violence against women is endemic; and tribal fighting is ongoing in some provinces. In addition, while the groups and individuals involved in PACE and FSVAC are dedicated and committed individuals, they work within the constraints of capacity, funding and human resources. Moreover, the provincial FSVAC will need significant and sustained support, as well as clarification of roles & responsibilities, in order to perform more effectively.

A crucial obstacle is the trend of urban migration away from traditional communities, which can reduce parent's traditional community support system. Economic pressures may lead to children being neglected, abused and exploited in an environment which lacks traditional protection and support.

During its next three year plan, Save the Children will be organizing a national advocacy campaign on VAC in all forms, targeting all duty bearers, including parents, police, teachers, child welfare officers and other key stakeholders.

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Increased awareness-raising, particularly through extensive media coverage, has led to higher rates of reporting of VAC and women. The placement of Sexual Offences Squads within the police structure supports victims to report crime. The development of Family Support Centres within the hospital system provides paralegal and psychosocial support and referral to women and children who report perpetrators.

The judicial system records high conviction rates if perpetrators are tried within the formal court system. However, many cases remain unreported, and many cases that are reported are settled through the informal Village Courts system, which traditionally resolves complaints through compensation. This process has (unlawfully) also applied to serious cases such as charges of sexual assault and murder. The training of Village Courts magistrates and clerks through the Village Courts Child Protection Training works to change this trend and has led to some village courts committing to reporting all cases of family and sexual violence to the district court.

Efforts are currently underway to install children's magistrates in all provincial courts, and UNICEF will support the training of police trainers in child-friendly evidence procedures during 2008. These police trainers will train not only other police, but also magistrates.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Prevention remains an area that requires further work and support, with most programmes delivering after-the-fact protection and counselling and care.

Consistent legal and policy frameworks to enhance the capacity of people working with and for children to challenge social norms which condone violence are being strengthened in 2008 by

the development of a National Children's Policy by the Department for Community Development and the implementation of the *Lukautim Pikinini (Child Protection) Act* 2007. This policy will compliment its Early Childhood Development Policy and Integrated Community Development Policy.

The incorporation of the Eight Elements of the Protective Environment for Children Framework into several key policies and strategies provides for a structure through which the prevention of VAC is prioritized, whilst addressing instances of such abuses.

Save the Children is training its staff on positive discipline practices to prioritise the prevention of VAC within its organization. In addition, SC is currently finalizing a three year plan which includes efforts to work with key stakeholders to review existing legislation relating to VAC, and either revise or create new legislation which will result in greater prevention of violence and services for child victims.

The National Department of Education with support from UNICEF has introduced the Child Friendly Schools programme. The programme seeks to make schools more friendly and relevant to students in seven keys areas, of which protection is one component of the programme. Approximately 53,273 students are attending official child friendly schools and an evaluation of the programme, conducted by the University of Goroka in 2007, found that in these schools, severe corporal punishment (such as beatings were uncommon) but corporal punishment in the form of discipline was administered by around 20 per cent of teachers.

5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

The systematic and meaningful involvement of children and young people in national actions to eliminate VAC has been limited until recently, and still requires further attention, support and resource mobilisation.

Two youth representatives, Margarita Harou and Nos Werao, participated in the Bangkok regional consultation for the UN Study in 2005. Save the Children has had a youth participation component in the past; this is now being revised and in the next three year plan VAC will be prioritized, including involving children in actions to end violence against them. Over fifty school children participated in focus groups on VAC on the day of the UN Study launching, led by the two youth representatives and other Save the Children youth activists. In addition, Margarita and Nos participated in a national radio talk-back show the day before the launch (Nov. 19), and were interviewed by national media on the day of the launch.

Government has demonstrated a willingness to embrace the principles of youth participation, and is continuing to receive support from UNICEF to strengthen the systematic and meaningful participation of children and young people in national actions to prevent VAC. For example, the first-ever National Child Leadership Forum, led by the Child Welfare Council that was reinvigorated in 2006 with UNICEF support, brought together senior representatives from 100 per cent of provinces and 40 child representatives to discuss child protection issues during 2007. This forum led to the commitment of all provinces to develop Provincial Action Plans for Children. However, due to limited capacity on the part of government in the area of child participation, the actual participation of the 40 child representatives was limited. Save the Children successfully advocated for a separate seminar for children on the third day of the Forum, during which the views of the children present were discussed and prioritized. The children then presented these

concerns, in their own words, to the adults at the larger Forum, to be taken into account when provincial governments are creating their action plans for children.

The issue of child participation in civil society is still in its infancy in PNG, and it is hoped that through greater awareness on child rights, as well as the active participation of children, that greater support and acceptance of child participation can be fostered in the coming years.

5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The establishment of National and Provincial Lukautim Pikinini Councils will strengthen the systematic capacity of communities to report and refer cases of VAC through its role as an overseer of child protection issues. Under the new legislation, there is a legal obligation to investigate. However, implementation of this is a critical issue. A database has been created to report and refer cases of child abuse, violence and exploitation. The government has set an ambitious target of documenting 10,000 cases of child abuse in 2008 through this system.

The current systems in place do not generally meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from professionals, as there is a critical shortage of trained and qualified counsellors, psychiatrists, and psychologists in Papua New Guinea. Save the Children and UNICEF have collaborated on a Child Trauma Counselling programme, which over the last two years has provided training to 150 counsellors across seven provinces. There are currently six active trainers in the country. Save the Children is planning to evaluate this project, finalize the manual, and conduct another training of trainers, prioritizing government child welfare officers. Save the Children will also be strengthening and providing ongoing support to the existing network of counsellors.

The government's demonstrated commitment to improving data collection and monitoring systems for child protection issues is a positive factor which will strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Director of Lukautim Pikinini to respond to cases of VAC. Another positive factor is the rolling out of Family Support Centres throughout the country by the Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee.

5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

The development of a NPA *Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children* frames the response of Government and civil society to the different risks facing girls and boys in respect to commercial sexual exploitation.

The 5-Year National Family and Sexual Violence Action Strategy, against gender-based violence, is currently being evaluated and part of evaluation is to look at how to strengthen the strategy to better address VAC and in particular violence against girls.

Eastern Highlands Family Voice are in the early stages of focusing on men and boys with awareness-raising activities. Men were involved in marches in Goroka against violence against women in 2007.

Girls are disproportionately affected by violence (especially sexual abuse), but reports of violence against boys seem to be increasing. Boys are also more likely to become involved in tribal fighting, or experience physical abuse by police if they come into contact with the law.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

The launching of the UN Study in November 2007 was a joint collaboration between Save the Children and UNICEF. We believe that any follow-up action must also be done jointly. Save the Children and UNICEF are committed to working with the Government, with civil society, and with each other on follow-up and implementation of the Study recommendations.

Thailand

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The UN Study has not yet been officially launched in Thailand. However, the Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups and Promotion of the Vulnerable Groups (OPP), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and the government focal point for the study, plan to launch it this year after the Executive Summary of the Study is translated.

1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

Save the Children Sweden facilitated the translation into Thai of the Executive Summary of the UN study. It is currently being edited by Bureau of Child Promotion and Protection under Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups (OPP)

1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

Only the Executive Summary has been translated. After completion of editing work on the Thai version of Executive Summary, UNICEF, OPP, and Save the Children Sweden will have a meeting to plan for its dissemination.

2. National policy and legal systems

2.1. In your opinion, to what extent has existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Thailand is actively working to promote its National Policy and Plan on "World Fit for Children" including violence against children. However, OPP does not have a plan of action to implement the policy. It assigns the provincial governments to develop their own plans based on the national policy framework. OPP is not accountable for the development of these provincial action plans.

The World Fit for Children is a broad policy on many aspects related to child development and therefore. VAC can easily remain hidden under other issues unless specific direction is provided to highlight the issue.

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

The Plan of Action for implementation of the study's recommendations has not been developed. OPP is focused on the plan for the World Fit for Children and advocacy is needed in order to develop the Plan of Action based on the UN Violence study.

Moreover, a lack of coordination, accountability and clear and logical division of responsibility within the key line ministry, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, hinders implementation. Although OPP is assigned as the focal point for follow-up to the study, another department within the same ministry, Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development, is the national focal point for domestic violence and VAC and women, and it has the responsibility to develop national policy and plans on this issues. The Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development is not aware of the study recommendations and has not been engaged in dialogue on the issue with OPP.

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

OPP of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security is the official government focal point. Contacts with them are made regularly to update on progress and plans to promote and disseminate the UN Study and implement the recommendations.

2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

In 2007, the «Act on Protection of Domestic Violence Victims B.E. 2550 (2007)» was enacted. The main beneficiaries of this law are children and women. A major characteristic of this law is that it emphasizes rehabilitating offenders and protection of domestic violence victims rather than punishing offenders as in the Criminal Code. Another aim of this Act is to preserve good relationships within the family.

Another key law with respect to VAC is the "Act on Child Protection B.E. 2546 (2003)". This law focuses more on the protection of children from abuse, maltreatment and bad behaviour. It is also closely linked to the Act on Protection of Domestic Violence if case occurs in the home.

The Sub-Committee on Law Reform meets regularly (monthly) to review laws and draft amendments to laws to strengthen compliance with the CRC. The group is currently reviewing the law related to children's involvement in Thai boxing.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

There will be confidential research with children on the project "Positive discipline for child-friendly environment" in the six southern provinces (Krabi, Phangnga, Phuket, Ranong, Satun, & Trang) affected by Tsunami of December 2004. This research will be conducted by organisations which are partners of Save the Children and with financial support from UNICEF. This confidential

research will be conducted with children to find out the extent of violence especially on corporal punishment perpetuated against them and how positive discipline can be used to resolve this problem.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) oversees the Child Death Review Committee with the Attorney General as a chairperson and the Child Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention Research Center, Ramadhibodhi Hospital as a secretariat. The Committee has the duty to review all the non-natural deaths of children. The Committee receives copies of the death certificates of children living in Bangkok who died from external or unnatural factors, such as accidents or violence. They have a team to investigate cases by collecting related information from the family and community, hospital and police to find out the real cause of the child's death.

Whilst this is a good practice, it is only Bangkok which has the Child Death Review Committee. Advocacy is needed to push for a national policy to ensure this practice exists throughout the country.

3. Social welfare systems

3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

There is no focal agency for coordinating and responding to child protection cases. UNICEF is advocating with the Government to establish such an agency under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Under the Child Protection Act B.E. 2003, the National and Provincial Child Protection Committees were established to coordinate resources in each province including services for abused children. However, since the committees are based at the provincial level and the number of social workers in the area is very limited, protection services rarely reach children at community level. Moreover, there is the lack of clear accountability about the work of the committees so the delivery of services is not guaranteed in all provinces. It depends mainly on the capacity of individuals working in the committees and in the capacity of the existing response services. Coordination to provide services depends largely of personal relationship.

Apart from the formal structure of the committee, there is also an attempt to establish multi-disciplinary approach in each province to ensure that children receive protection by professional in all aspects.

3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Efforts are being made by the Government, NGOs and universities to build capacity of personnel, including social workers and health professionals. However, these efforts lack coordination. They are also ad-hoc as well as limited in scope and coverage.

One example of a more systematic approach is through the Ministry of Public Health and Khon

Kaen University efforts to train staff in the hospital based One Stop Crisis Centres (OSCC). These centres are based in all provincial hospitals and efforts are underway to expand coverage to community hospitals.

Several national universities offer social work degree programmes but the focus on child specific issues and violence is limited, although Thammasat University is upgrading its capacity on these issues in collaboration with UNICEF and Loyola University.

The new Law on Domestic Violence should provide an opportunity and necessity to build capacity however, an implementation plan for the law has not yet been developed.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

As with capacity building for those working with children, efforts to facilitate awareness-raising amongst parents and the education sector are limited, ad-hoc and not well coordinated.

There are limited scale programmes supported by NGOs and international organizations to train parents and education personnel on positive discipline but the approach is not yet national. Although the Ministry of Education has a regulation banning corporal punishment and does incorporate this into teacher training, it is viewed as largely ineffective as corporal punishment is still a persistent problem in schools. Linking and expanding the various positive discipline programmes would be beneficial.

The Ministry of Justice and the Juvenile and Family Court, both have pilot programmes on restorative justice principals. These pilot initiatives are being implemented at community and school level and promote principals of non-violent conflict resolution and restoration of community harmony.

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

In Thailand, perpetrators of VAC can be brought to justice through several legal instruments including the Criminal Code, Child Protection Act, Domestic Violence Act and Anti-Trafficking Act. There is also a division within the police specialized in investigation and response to violence against women and children and trafficking, the Crime Against Child, Juvenile and Women Suppression Division of the Royal Thai Police. However there is only one unit and whilst it has national jurisdiction, it is based in Bangkok, making investigation of cases in provincial areas difficult. Its focus tends to be on suppression and investigation of trafficking cases.

The Criminal Code clearly states a range of penalties for offences related to life and body causing harm and death. Article 78 of the Child Protection Act also states that those who violate article 26 shall be liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding 30,000 Baht, or both.

Acts included under Article 26 are acts whereby the offender is said to:

- 1) Commit or omit acts which result in torturing a child's body or mind;
- 2) Intentionally or neglectfully withhold things that are necessary for sustaining the life or health of a child under guardianship, to the extent which would be likely to cause physical or mental harm to the child ;
- 3) Force, threaten, induce, encourage or allow a child to adopt behaviour and manners which are inappropriate or likely to be the cause of wrongdoing;
- 4) Advertise by means of the media or use any other means of information dissemination to receive or give away a child to any person who is not related to the child, save where such action is sanctioned by the State;
- 5) Force, threaten, induce, encourage, consent to, or act in any other way that results in a child becoming a beggar, living on the street, or use a child as an instrument for begging or committing crimes, or act in any way that results in the exploitation of a child;
- 6) Use, employ or ask a child to work or act in such a way that might be physically or mentally harmful to the child, affect the child's growth or hinder the child's development;
- 7) Force, threaten, use, induce, instigate, encourage, or allow a child to play sports or commit any acts indicative of commercial exploitation in a manner which hinders the child's growth and development or constitutes an act of torture against the child;
- 8) Use or allow a child to gamble in any form or enter into a gambling place, brothel, or other place where children are not allowed;
- 9) Force, threaten, use, induce, instigate, encourage or allow a child to perform or act in a pornographic manner, regardless of whether the intention is to obtain remuneration or anything else;
- 10) Sell, exchange or give away liquor or cigarettes to a child, other than for medical purposes.

Despite a relatively strong legal framework, in practice only a limited number of cases are reported, investigated and/or prosecuted.

5. Cross-cutting themes

- 5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Prevention of violence is covered partially in the new Domestic Violence Act. However, resources and capacity building to identify and support prevention and early intervention programmes are almost non-existent.

- 5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

In 1999, the Royal Thai Government enacted a resolution that every November is "the month to eliminate violence against women and children" and has set a list of measures for related ministries and departments to follow in order to eliminate such violence. The Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development has taken a lead role in this and organized campaigns throughout the country to raise awareness on this issue. Workshops on gender based violence

are conducted regularly for government officials and members of the public. Since 2005, the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development has worked with children and young people, mostly student leaders to promote gender equality and violence against women and children. This project is called "New Generation Leaders" and some examples of schools participating in this project are Wat Benjamabopit and Satriwittaya school.

Unfortunately, there is no integration between Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development and OPP which actually could increase participation of children and young people since the latter office is responsible directly for children and also has a number of projects working closely with children such as "Children Caravan" and "Child Rights Forum".

5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Currently, two ministries namely the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and Ministry of Public Health provide 24 hours hot lines for reporting cases of violence and abuse at the number 1300 and 1669 respectively. However, immediate assistance provided to the reported case through these numbers is limited and it is not statutory. There is also an NGO run hot line, Child Line, which provides assistance and referral to children on any child rights related issue, including violence. A more formal reporting system is stated in article 5 of the Act on Domestic Violence Act:

"A victim of domestic violence or a person encountering an act of domestic violence has the duty to notify a competent official for further actions as stipulated under this Act.

Persons notifying a competent official in good faith according to paragraph one shall receive protection and shall not be held liable for any civil, criminal or administrative action arising there from."

Article 6 of the same Act also provides means of reporting and legal obligation of competent officials. It states:

"The method of notifying a competent official in accordance with Article 5 may be done verbally, in writings, by telephone, by electronic methods or other methods.

When a competent official has encountered an act of domestic violence, or received notification according to Article 5, he or she has the power to enter the home or place, where such domestic violence has occurred, for the purpose of interviewing the victim or the perpetrator of such domestic violence, or other persons who are present at that place concerning the notified act; and the power to arrange for the domestic violence victim to receive medical examinations and treatments from a physician and to request for counselling services from a psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker. In the case where a domestic violence victim wants prosecution, the competent official shall arrange for that person to make a complaint in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code. But if that

person is not able or does not have an opportunity to make a complaint by him/herself, the competent official may make a complaint on his/ her behalf.

The criteria and methods for procedures under paragraph two shall follow the regulations announced by the Minister”

The effectiveness of this mandatory reporting system cannot be evaluated since the law only came into force a few months ago and the more detailed ministerial regulations related to the law have not yet been announced. However, the experience in implementing the Child Protection Act, which also includes mandatory reporting, has been weak and the system of reporting and follow-up largely failed due to a lack of clear accountability in the law and lack of systems for and awareness of reporting obligations.

5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

One of the national campaigns organized by the Office of Women’s Affairs and Family Development every November is the “White Ribbon Campaign”. It was started in 2000 to engage men and boys in ending men’s violence against women. The White Ribbon symbolizes a man’s pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women. Each year, famous male leaders such as politicians, actors or singers are selected to be a “White Ribbon Presenter”. They talk with the media and public to raise awareness on this issue. This campaign is well received, but since the campaign takes place only for one month (November) each year the campaign does not have a lasting impact or stimulate continuous engagement of men and boys.

There is limited information available on the gender dimensions of violence or particular risk factors facing boys and girls. This relates to the general lack of systematic and reliable data on child protection in Thailand.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

Limited collaboration has taken place, although on specific projects related to child protection violence there has been some engagement. For example:

- Project on Positive Discipline in Schools
- Development of the Child Safe Organizations manual and training programme
- Tracing and monitoring of unaccompanied and separated migrant children in tsunami affected provinces (including training of para-professionals on case management)

These initiatives have taken place within the framework of regular collaboration between UNICEF and Save the Children and whilst addressing issues of violence, they have not been specific to follow-up to the UN Study.

The Philippines

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

- 1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The Philippines government, through the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), has initiated and scheduled the launching of the UN Study in March 2008. Members of the VAC Core Group²⁶ together with representatives from the children's sector and other NGOs, are expected to participate in this activity. The government will also launch the National Strategic Framework of Action on VAC at the same event. UNICEF and Save the Children Sweden are both involved in the preparatory activities of this launch.

- 1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

The UN Study on VAC has not been translated. However, several other materials relevant to the Study, such as the Children's Recommendations on VAC gathered during the Children's Forum held last 14- 16 July 2005 by the Steering Committee for the East Asia Pacific Regional Consultation for the UN Study on VAC, have been this was translated into Filipino

- 1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

The Philippines government, with the support of various non-government and international organizations, including UNICEF and Save the Children Sweden (then SCUK), has conducted a series of regional consultations with adults and children to generate discussion and inputs on the situation of VAC in the Philippines.

The consultation conducted by Save the Children UK in Cebu City²⁷ brought together at least 120 participants from NGOs, government agencies and children's organisations mostly from the Visayas region. The consultation also became a venue for sharing the results of the East Asia Pacific Regional Consultation in Bangkok. The Philippine delegation to the Regional VAC consultation held in Bangkok last 2005 composed of government representatives, NGOs, and child leaders, agreed to organize itself into a VAC Core Group to echo what transpired in this consultation meeting and to ensure that the recommendations at the Consultation are implemented.

During the last quarter of 2005 until first quarter of 2006, seven (7) Regional VAC consultation workshops all over the country including one consultation workshop with children held in Baguio City were conducted.

The workshops identified the most common forms and types of VAC in the seven settings; the home, streets, schools, workplace, institutions, community, and cyberspace. In each of the workshops, the discussions highlighted the following:

²⁶ CWC, DSWD, PNP, UNICEF, Plan Phils, ECPAT, CCF, Save the Children Sweden, and Open Heart Foundation

²⁷ 29 Nov-1 Dec 2005

- Manifestations of violence against children
- Children most at-risk and types of problems they face
- Causes of violence against children
- Gaps in policy and procedures that facilitate the perpetuation of violence
- Recommendations and solutions at the community, national, regional levels as well as over-all recommendations.

Save the Children Sweden presented the UN Study findings and recommendations on various occasions including a forum and press conference in Metro Manila in Nov 2006 and a forum in Davao City in March 2007. The latter was a collaborative effort among Save the Children Sweden, Terre des Hommes Germany, and the Mindanao Convenors against Corporal Punishment of Children.²⁸ About 199 individuals from NGOs, children's organisations, government agencies, local government units, and the media participated in these forums. Participants were from Metro Manila, Cebu City, Davao City, General Santos City, Iligan, Basilan, Zamboanga City, Agusan, and Maguindanao.

Save the Children Sweden has also presented the UN Study during orientation sessions for its partner organisations - ZOTO (Metro Manila), Central Visayas Cluster on Child Protection and Restorative Justice²⁹ (Cebu City), Bidlisiw Foundation (Cebu City), FREELAVA (Cebu City), Mindanao Convenors against Corporal Punishment of Children (Davao City, Gen. Santos City, Zamboanga City, Ozamis City) - and for allies such as the staff of the Council for the Welfare of Children and its partner organisations.

Save the Children Sweden's partner organisations have also presented the UN Study findings and recommendations during the activities that they conducted in 2007, such as the Forum on Corporal Punishment conducted by the Central Visayas Cluster on Child Protection and Restorative Justice in Cebu City, and the orientation sessions conducted by the Mindanao Convenors against Corporal Punishment of Children in Davao City, General Santos City, Zamboanga City and Ozamis City. About 1,600 people were reached by these activities, including representatives of NGOs, government agencies (Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development), local government units, school principals, teachers, guidance counsellors, caregivers of centre-based institutions for children, police, representatives of religious groups, parents and other adults in communities.

UNICEF has also reprinted 1,000 copies of the UN Study and disseminated them to key partners and stakeholders in the Philippines through the Council for the Welfare of Children and the VAC Core Group and CNSP sub-committees.

²⁸ The Mindanao Convenors against Corporal Punishment of Children is an alliance of NGOs undertaking the campaign to end all forms of corporal punishment in Mindanao. Its members include the following NGOs: Tambayan Center for Children's Rights (Davao City), Adolescent Health Adolescent Health Advocates (Davao City); Bantay Bata 163-Davao (Davao City); Kabataan Consortium (Davao City); Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (General Santos City); Gitib, Inc. (Ozamis City); and Katilingban Alang sa Kalambuan (Zamboanga City).

²⁹ The Central Visayas Cluster on Child Protection and Restorative Justice is an alliance of groups based in Cebu City who are working on issues of child protection and restorative justice. Members include FREELAVA, Bidlisiw Foundation, DSWD Region 7, PNP Region 7, and the Community Scouts.

2. National policy and legal systems

- 2.1. In your opinion, to what extent have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Following the Regional Consultation on the UN Study in Bangkok in 2005, a VAC core group was formed among key government agencies and a number of NGOs, namely, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Philippine National Police-WCPC, Plan Philippines, ECPAT Philippines, Open Heart Foundation, Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Save the Children-Sweden, and UNICEF. The VAC core group organized regional consultations in different parts of the country and, along with CWC, drafted a NPA on VAC in 2007.

- 2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

The NPA on VAC was drafted based on the recommendations put forward during the nationwide regional consultations conducted by CWC and the VAC core group. Plans are underway to launch the NPA on VAC, together with the UN Study on VAC, in March 2008. During the same ceremony, a national communication campaign called "Children Against Violence" will also be launched. The communication plan and strategy which was developed in consultation with the VAC core group, as well as the production of communication materials, have been supported by UNICEF.

- 2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) serves as the National Focal Agency (NFA) to end VAC in the Philippines. CWC is regularly convening the VAC Core Group related to children's concerns. UNICEF and Save the Children-Sweden are both members of the VAC Core Group.

- 2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

UNICEF, in coordination with the Council for the Welfare of Children, conducted a review of the existing laws and policies affecting VAC, particularly in the areas of corporal punishment, child pornography especially pornography on the internet, and the age of sexual consent. This review became the basis of a legal reform process to amend the existing laws and also draft a new one on child pornography. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) conducted two (2) round-table discussions on VAC specifically on the age of sexual consent in September 2007. Results of the discussions were included in the proposed bill on statutory rape. UNICEF also supported the filing of bills on foster care and corporal punishment, as well as drafting and filing of bills on child pornography and age of sexual consent.

Save the Children Sweden and UNICEF, as members of the Child Rights Network, a loose network of local and international NGOs working on children's issues and concerns, are currently pushing for the amendment of existing laws on child protection in an aim to clarify and broaden the definition of corporal punishment, ban all forms of corporal punishment especially in the home, repeal any law that justifies the punishment of children especially by parents and guardians, and support establishment and strengthening of child protection systems and provision of effective programmes and services to support parents, guardians, families and other caregivers.

Save the Children Sweden has influenced the Children's Legal Advocacy Network (CLAN)--an advocacy and campaign network of twelve (12) NGOs and people's organisations consisting

of child rights advocacy groups, lawyers' groups, child-focused organisations and community-based alliances-- to take on corporal punishment as a priority issue in its legislative advocacy work. Save the Children Sweden has also been supporting CLAN by providing information and campaign materials, and serving as resource persons in its campaign activities. CLAN is working towards drafting a proposed law on corporal punishment that will also include the provision of support services and programmes for parents and guardians/caregivers. It has also been disseminating information materials produced by Save the Children Sweden SEAP and Philippines on corporal punishment among legislators and Congressional staff.

As of February 2008, in addition to the four child protection bills filed at the House of Representatives, two bills on corporal punishment have been filed in the Senate. All filed bills on corporal punishment propose amending the Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation And Discrimination Act (Republic Act 7610). One bill filed in the Senate, aside from the amendment of RA 7610, also proposes the repeal, modification or amendment of the Family Code of the Philippines, the Child and Youth Welfare Code, the Code of Muslim Personal Laws, and other contradictory laws. However, because the legislators are currently prioritizing the investigation of highly political and controversial issues, these bills are moving quite slowly. Fortunately, this gives the advocates sufficient time to unify and strengthen their policy proposals and consolidate their ranks. This also allows the advocates more time to raise awareness and build support among legislators and congressional staff.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

Save the Children Sweden and UNICEF have conducted several perception studies to explore issues of VAC in the home and in schools, all of which involved both children and adults. These studies provided evidence for advocacy and programme activities of both organisations and their partners:

- Save the Children UK, *Research on the Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children in the Philippines*, 2005. Philippines, Save the Children UK. This was a contribution to the Save the Children Sweden regional research on corporal punishment, which in turn was a contribution to the UN Global Study on Violence against Children.
- Save the Children Sweden, *Review of Philippine Laws Related to Discipline and Punishment*, 2005, Philippines, Save the Children Sweden.
- Save the Children Sweden, *Exploring Positive Discipline in Filipino Families (ongoing)*.
- Philippine Women's University-CWC-UNICEF, *Towards a Child-Friendly Education Environment: Baseline Research on Violence against Children in Public Schools*. 2007, Philippines, UNICEF.
- SR-MICS and UNICEF, *Sub-regional Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey, which included questions on child discipline*, 2007, Philippines, UNICEF.
- Plan Philippines, *Understanding Child Discipline and Child Abuse in the Filipino Context - Comparing Perspective of Parents, Children, Professionals and Community Leaders*, 2005, Philippines, Plan.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Women and Children's Desks have also been established in all police stations in the country. Female police officers are assigned to these desks. In the investigation of sexual abuse cases, the law requires that the police officer and the examining physician must be of the same gender as the offended party. More than 600 police officers have been trained on the investigation of

crimes against women and children in a training programme supported by UNICEF. The Child Protection Unit (CPU) is also promoting the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have happened.

3. Social welfare systems

3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Council for the Welfare of Children is the main government agency responsible for the formulation of policies for children, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the CRC, including the protection rights. CWC has a cross-sectoral committee on "Children in Need of Special Protection" which itself has six (6) sub-committees, each composed of the line government agencies and NGOs. The sub-committee deal with sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children, children affected by armed conflict and displacement, children with disability, justice for children, child labour, street children. CWC has 17 Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children.

At the local level, the Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs) are designated as the coordinating units at the regional, provincial, municipal and village levels.

3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

UNICEF continues to be engaged in building the capacity of direct service providers, such as social workers, law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, teachers, for child-friendly and gender-sensitive handling of children. In 2005-2006 alone, UNICEF reached more than 6,000 service providers. Moreover, domestic child protection laws such as Republic Act 7610 (special protection against child abuse, exploitation, and discrimination) and RA 9262 (violence against children and women) are included in the curricula of Philippine Public Safety College, which is the training institution for police. CRC and Child Protection Laws are also included in the curricula of the Philippine Judicial Academy.

Save the Children Sweden supports (financially and technically) the child protection work of local organisations that are working directly with families and children in communities. Save the Children Sweden has supported the community-based diversion and reintegration work of FREELAVA since 2002, which involves building the capacity of service providers and communities (e.g., village councils for the protection of children, social workers, community volunteers, police) in handling cases of children in conflict with the law. SC Sweden has also supported the work of the Visayas Cluster on Child Protection and Restorative Justice, which involves enhancing the capacity of member organisations (DSWD, PNP, Community Scouts, FREELAVA, Bidlisiw) in implementing their own programmes for abused and exploited children, and in supporting the work of each other.

Aside from conducting discussions and orientations on corporal punishment and positive discipline, SC Sweden has also developed and provided partner organisations and other allies with materials and tools that they could use in their own advocacy work on corporal punishment

such as the review of Philippine laws related to the discipline and punishment of children,³⁰ research on corporal punishment in the Philippines, and position paper on corporal punishment. The availability of information and materials in country and at the regional and global levels has contributed much to building internal as well as partners' capacity in relation to VAC, corporal punishment and advocacy. However, the translation of some of these materials or the development of localized materials will greatly facilitate information dissemination especially in poor communities.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

UNICEF, in coordination with the Council for the Welfare of Children, drafted last October 2007 a Communication for Behaviour Change Plan that identifies messages to prevent and ensure zero tolerance against all forms of violence against children. Production of information, education and communication materials are underway, and the national launch of the campaign is scheduled for the first quarter of 2008.

Save the Children Sweden and its partner organisations have conducted various awareness-raising activities (e.g., parenting sessions, orientations, workshops) on corporal punishment and positive discipline for teachers, guidance counsellors, principals, student-teachers, staff of NGOs working with children, staff of NGO-run and government-run childcare institutions, social workers, police, staff of relevant government agencies (DSWD, DepEd), parents and other adults in communities (e.g., members of homeowners associations) in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao City, General Santos City, Zamboanga City, and Ozamis City. At least 2,000 people were reached by these activities from the last quarter of 2006 to Dec 2007.

Various information materials on violence against children, corporal punishment and positive discipline were also developed and distributed by Save the Children Sweden. These included a set of booklets on different children's issues for adults, a positive discipline manual for parents and other adults working with children, and various brochures and leaflets on corporal punishment and positive discipline. SC Sweden's information materials have been distributed to its partner organisations in Metro Manila, Cebu Province, Davao City, Zamboanga City, Ozamis City, General Santos City; other NGOs, INGOs and networks in the Philippines and their partners; participants of the ISPCAN Asian Regional Conference in 2007; legislators; and the media. Save the Children Sweden and its partners are also doing media campaigns (print and broadcast) to raise awareness on the issue of corporal punishment and positive discipline.

The Council for the Welfare of Children has conducted round-table-discussions on bullying in public elementary and high schools. This activity aims to promote non-violent behaviour and

³⁰ Save the Children's book, Philippine Laws Related to the Discipline and Punishment of Children, is the first comprehensive compilation and analysis of national laws, policies, local ordinances, religious documents, and school manuals and handbooks relevant to the issue of corporal punishment of children. This book was published by Save the Children UK and Sweden to be used as a springboard for advocacy on corporal punishment.

values and also to generate local commitment at the school and Local Government Unit (LGU) levels. An advocacy material on how to deal with bullying at school is expected to be developed by CWC.

Social Workers at Local Government Unit levels and other NGOs are also engaged in the conduct of parenting sessions and education work to increase local awareness on non-violent values, although there is a need to further improve the competencies and skills of social workers and other community-based field workers employed by NGOs.

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Philippine government, through legislation, has established the Special Committee on the Protection of Children, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, the National Child Labor Committee, the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children, and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council in order to oversee the implementation of laws protecting children from different forms of violence against children. Among the tasks of these agencies is to monitor the prosecution of violators. The Philippine House of Representatives (HOR) has just organized a Special Committee for the Welfare of Children to spearhead the crafting of legislative policies for children.

Save the Children Sweden has been supporting partners in their efforts to set up community-based child protection systems and support groups that will facilitate and serve as venues for reporting, responding to and preventing cases of violence against children. Some partners have started being involved in local councils for the protection of children, which include NGO and child representatives, social workers, teachers and police officers. Some partners are also strengthening linkages with and collaborating with government social workers and the police as part of the referral networks they are establishing in different areas. At present, the main constraint in prosecuting perpetrators is the lack of appropriate and timely support for victims and families. This also hinders children and families from reporting. The absence of a law against corporal punishment especially in the home is also a major constraint for responding legally to cases of severe corporal punishment by parents.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Prevention of VAC has been identified as a priority area in the NPA on VAC. The launch of the national campaign aims to increase awareness and enhance prevention of VAC. The Philippine National Strategic Framework for Action to End VAC has identified the following key strategic actions for implementation.

- Legal reform to address VAC in all settings
- Awareness raising and capacity building on prevention of VAC and promotion of gender equity/equality, non-discrimination, the fostering of positive, non-violent relationships among children, parents, caregivers, communities, policy makers, service providers, media, civil society and the general public.
- Setting up of comprehensive and systematic data and information collection, reporting and monitoring systems and mechanisms

The work of Save the Children Sweden and its partners on prevention is emphasised through awareness raising and capacity building on positive discipline. Save the Children Sweden is specifically pushing for the inclusion of parenting education/capacity building on positive discipline for parents and other caregivers in bills being pushed in Congress. The adoption of a child protection policy is also continuously being promoted among partners. Save the Children staff and staff of partners' organisations are also required to comply with the Save the Children Child Protection Policy, which includes the prohibition of corporal punishment of children. Information about the Child Protection Policy is also shared with children and children's groups with whom Save the Children Sweden and partners work with.

To date, various NGOs and government agencies are implementing programmes and activities related to prevention of VAC as well as in policy advocacy work. The Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (CPTCSA) is engaged in promoting Personal Safety Lessons (PSL) in schools which aims to give information, develop skills, and build self esteem in children to increase their ability to resist sexual offenders. CPTCSA helps prevent child sexual abuse and provide early intervention by reaching out to children in schools, and their parents. CPTCSA is also conducting Family Advocacy Sessions to strengthen the capability of families and community to fulfil their role as child protectors. The sessions inform parents and other members of the family about child sexual abuse and give skills to protect their child and how to handle if the child tells s/he has been abused. ECPAT and Visayan Forum are involved in the prevention of Child Trafficking. Save the Children is promoting positive discipline in the homes, schools and other settings while Plan International is involved in promoting birth registration, organizing children's association, and promoting child participation. The Department of Labour and Employment- Bureau of Women and Young Workers (BWYW) is engaged in the prevention of engagement of working children in worst forms of child labour through the implementation of Sagip Batang Manggagawa (Rescue Child Labourers). SBM is a Quick Action programme supported by BWYW which aims to respond to cases of child labourers in extremely abject conditions. It employs an inter-agency quick action team for detecting, monitoring and rescuing child labourers in hazardous and exploitative working conditions. It also rescues women and children victimized by traffickers. The DSWD of Local Government Units in UNICEF assisted areas conduct parenting education sessions at the community levels through the Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPCs). There are also several faith-based organizations that are engaged in preventive activities related to VAC.

5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

Save the Children Sweden and its partner organisations have supported the efforts of groups of children and young people in planning and implementing activities in relation to violence against children. Since mid 2006, SCS has supported the initiatives of the Children and Youth Organization (CYO) and the Active Youth Movement (AYM), two community-based children's organisations, in their awareness-raising activities on VAC particularly corporal punishment. Their activities involved a total of 1,442 children [598 girls and 844 boys] in two urban poor communities.

These organisations also conducted learning sessions and consultations with a total of 129 children that resulted in the formulation of a Children's Manifesto on Violence Against Children. The Children's Manifesto calls on various duty bearers like parents, government, school administrators and teachers, non-government organisations, media and other children to take action to end the corporal punishment of children. It has been presented in four major community and multi-sectoral activities involving around 1,666 children and representatives

from the government, NGOs, academe and media. It was also presented by a member of CYO who represented children from the Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region at the Regional Launch of The UN VAC Study in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2006. Save the Children supported the participation of the CYO member in this regional launch.

Fifty-one (51) children from different parts of the country also participated in a national consultation workshop with children held in Baguio City in November 4-6, 2005, as part of the nationwide consultations being conducted by CWC on the UN VAC study. The participants formulated their statement of concern on VAC and identified concrete recommendations for action addressed to the government, educators/teachers, legislators, law enforcers, social workers, parents, religious groups, NGOs, community leaders, and the children. Moreover, UNICEF in coordination with the VAC Core Group and other NGOs and in consultation with the children's sector has developed the "Children Against Violence" nationwide campaign which will be launched in the first quarter of 2008.

There are existing mechanisms for children's participation which involve children within the government structure at national and local levels (e.g. National Anti-Poverty Commission-Children Basic Sector; local youth councils [Sangguniang Kabataan]; National Youth Parliament of the National Youth Commission). However, children who are in these mechanisms are yet to be involved in the work on VAC. These structures and mechanisms are also yet to be maximized for involving children in action to address VAC.

5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The current system on reporting and referral is provided for in existing laws; RA 7610 (special protection against child abuse, exploitation, and discrimination), RA 9262 (violence against children and women), and RA 9231 (anti-trafficking law), and their implementing rules and regulations. The police, through the Women and Children's Desk (WCD) officers have a legal obligation to investigate reports, while local social workers are required to provide assistance to victims. However, the capacities of WCD officers and local social workers are still quite weak and the resources available to them are inadequate.

The Child Protection Unit Network (CPU Net) is a body of child protection practitioners, and child protection units that are committed to the highest clinical standards of care for abused children and children-at-risk. This organization is contributing effectively to a comprehensive national child protection infrastructure that will close the gaps between medical, psycho-social, investigative and legal services. CPU Net recently completed a one year study in cooperation with the Philippine Judicial Academy entitled "Improving Proceedings Involving Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation Cases", involving 96 Family Courts, supreme Court Judges and funded by the Office of British Embassy. This was a highly complex and successful project; one that is indicative of CPU-NET's organizational expertise and competence to carry out large scale projects. CPU-Net provides services to its 25 member institutions and 56 individual member physicians nationwide. Services include continuing education through forums, national and international conferences, specially training on child protection, provision of books, research publications, and consultation on cases, peer reviews, awareness and occasional equipment supply.

Bantay Bata 163 helpline is a 24-hour hotline call centre that provides immediate response to handle and refer cases of child abuse through a rescue team, on-line counselling and referrals handled by trained counsellors and social workers working on a daily 3-shift basis. Bantay Bata

163 is a child welfare programme of ABS-CBN Foundation that not only rescues and rehabilitates sick and abused children, but also provides shelter, therapy and quality home care for rescued children until they can be reunited with their families or referred to proper child-caring agencies. Bantay Bata 163 gives emphasis on the family through the following services: training and advocacy on child abuse prevention, rehabilitation of families in crisis, educational scholarships, livelihood, community outreach and medical and dental missions. Established in 1997, to date, Bantay Bata 163 has received and acted upon a total of 219,934 phone calls, rescued 1,511 abused, provided 1,461 children with educational assistance, and 12,557 children with medical assistance.

UNICEF continues to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies and other professionals working with children at risk or victim of violence. Plans are underway to support the training of Patrol 117 staff handling 24-hour nationwide emergency telephone hotline.

5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 has special provisions on the protection of female children in conflict with the law. Women and Children's Desks have also been established in all police stations in the country. Female police officers are assigned to these desks. In the investigation of sexual abuse cases, the law required that the police officer and the examining physician must be of the same gender as the offended party. More than 600 police officers have been trained on the investigation of crimes against women and children in a training programme supported by UNICEF.

UNICEF, in coordination with UNFPA, is planning to conduct a research on the gender dimensions of violence against children and women. If funding is secured, this will be done in 2008.

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

Save the Children Sweden and UNICEF in the Philippines both sit as members of the VAC Core Group, a core group of international and national NGOs and government agencies working on issues of VAC in different settings. The group contributed significantly to the drafting of the Philippine Government's strategic plan of action on VAC. Both organisations also collaborate on the issue of corporal punishment as members of the Child Rights Network. One of the advocacy issues in the network's agenda is the passage of law banning corporal punishment in all settings, especially the home.

Vietnam

1. Promotion of the UN Global Study on Violence against Children

1. The UN Study was launched approximately one year ago. In your country, please indicate how the Study has been promoted with respect to the following aspects:

- 1.1. Official launch of the Study (please include date, GO involvement and level of participation)

The Vietnamese government has not yet launched the UN Study. However, the children who attended the regional launching meeting in Bangkok, in 2006, met with children in National child Protection Forum to share results of the report with children in the forum.

- 1.2. Translation of the Study into local languages (please indicate which ones)

The UN study report has been translated in Vietnamese by UNICEF and shared with the UN counterpart, Committee for Population Family and Children (CPFC).

The UN study child-friendly report (a child friendly version for children with a package of material for children) has been translated in Vietnamese by SCS and share with CPFC Child Department, other partners like CSAGA, Lamchame. "Safe you safe me" (Save the Children Sweden)

In addition, six recommendations from the Save the Children Alliance on the UN study have been translated, published and launched by Save the Children Sweden and the Science Institute for Population Family and Children (SIPFC)

- 1.3. Promotion/dissemination of the UN Study report including to children (please indicate what has been done).

The UN Study on VAC has been shared with Save the Children Sweden and UNICEF partners: CPFC, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLISA), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice and Police & local NGOs (Lamchame, CSAGA)

Save the Children Sweden has also coordinated the draft of the complementary report to CRC State Report to Child Rights Committee which included issues of VAC and recommendations from UN Study.

2. National policy and legal systems

- 2.1. In your opinion, to what extents have existing national plans (if any) on the Convention on the Rights of the Child integrated a strategy on violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Vietnam doesn't currently have a specific NPA on VAC. The Law on Protection, Care and Education of Children (amended) No 25/2004/QH 11, dated 15 June 2004, is the current existing legal provision for children who have been victims of violence. Of its five chapters, chapter IV is particularly interesting from a child protection perspective: "Protection, care and education of children living in exceptionally difficult conditions (Articles 40 to 58) covers measures to protect, care and educate disadvantaged children.

However, the government of Vietnam is working on a National Strategy for Child Protection that aims to develop a solid structure and comprehensive system to prevent and respond to child protection issues including VAC. The proposal will be resubmitted to Prime Minister for approval by March 2008.

2.2. Are there efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations (please explain)

Since Vietnam has not launched UN Study, efforts to develop a Plan of Action for implementation of the study recommendations were not maximized.

However, the UN Study contributed to a certain extent to increase public awareness through media around child protection issues. In addition, a plan, including prevention, response, protection and rehabilitation, on VAC will be included in the National Strategy on Child Protection.

2.3. Has an official Government Focal Point/Group for the Study follow-up been appointed? Please indicate if you have been in contact with the Focal Point/Group.

At the moment, the government hasn't yet designated any Focal Point/ Group for the Study. However, the government assigned the Children Department of CPFC to follow up the UN Study and other issues regarding children's rights.

After the dissolution of CPFC, the Children Department became the Bureau on Care and Protection under Children of Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). This Bureau continues to be in charge of children-related issues

2.4. Are there efforts to promote the development and/or amendment of legislation with respect to violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

A Child Protection National Strategy is currently being developed. A draft will be submitted to the government in March 2008. This strategy aims at providing a strategic and operational framework for a national child protection system. This will include a revision of existing child protection legislation, national and sub-national child protection services structure, research and data collection and monitoring and inspection.

The Domestic Violence Law was passed in 2007. This law has specific legal stipulations on children as victims of domestic violence, including witnessing violence in the family home. The government is at the stage of drafting the decrees of this law. One workshop was organized in January by the government, where UNICEF and Save the Children Finland participated, to discuss the content of the decree. The decree, at the moment, is more focusing on violence against women and efforts are jointly done to incorporate more issues related to violence against children.

A NPA Children and HIV/AIDS is being developed that will be submitted to Government by mid-year 2008. The NPA aims to provide a strategic framework for universal access to HIV prevention, AIDS care and protection for children, especially children affected by HIV/AIDS.

UNICEF is advocating for the creation of a specific law on VAC.

2.5. Are there any efforts to conduct confidential research with children or with parents/guardians on violence? Please indicate who is conducting such research and the areas or issues it attempts to explore.

Save the Children Sweden, UNICEF and Plan International will all share the costs of publishing of a study on corporal punishment done in 4 provinces in the north (Vinh Phuc, Quang Ngai, Gia Lai, Tien Giang), entitled "*Education or Abuse? A Research on Corporal Punishment of Vietnam Children*". In this study, children have been interviewed using child participatory methods, and with respect of their right to a private life. Save the Children is currently translating the study into Vietnamese.

2.6. Are there efforts to promote the full investigation and recording of all child deaths in which violence may have played a role? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

UNICEF has supported the implementation of Decree 114, passed in August 2006, which stipulates an administrative sanction for all harmful behaviour towards children, including child death, by providing training to inspectors at the community level.

As far as investigations are concerned, police staff needs to be trained on how to investigate when they face a case of child death (for example, how to interview parents). There is a need to strengthen police staff professional skills. There is also a need to raise the awareness of the government and leaders on corporal punishment and VAC in order that all efforts are done to have a full investigation for every case of child death.

As far as recording is concerned, the General Statistic Office in Vietnam (GSO) is in charge of gathering all the official statistics has statistics on deaths of children but they do not record specific statistics on the nature of the death and its potential links with violence.

Specific reporting system on child deaths caused by violence have not been established yet.

3. Social welfare systems

3.1. Are there efforts to encourage the Government to identify a coordinating unit for child protection (at both central and local government levels) which orchestrates services for the prevention of violence, and involves them in response and monitoring? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) is the ministry responsible for:

- 1) State administration over social issues including protection and care of children, gender equality all over the country;
- 2) Administration of public services in the area under the management of the Ministry.
The Committee for Population, Family & Children (CPFC) used to be the national government coordinating agency for child protection at national and sub-national level. It was created in 2002 to monitor children rights, advocate for them and handle cases where they were not respected. In late 2007, this committee was disbanded at national level. The Children's Department of the CPFC was merged into the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and in December 2007 it was newly assigned as the national coordinating government agency for child protection, becoming the Bureau of Protection and Care of Children. It has accordingly been designated as a focal point on protection and care of children

3.2. What is being done to promote capacity-building for those working with and for children and families? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Concerning capacity building for professionals, the following activities have been undertaken:

The development of social work as a profession. Here, UNICEF and MOLISA coordinate together along with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs and other related agencies. The national proposal on professional social work (job code; salary; standards of practice; education and training for social workers, establishment of social work's association etc) is currently being undertaken and is due to the government by August 2008. The Child Welfare Bureau will submit a plan for social work for people who work on child welfare system, A social work professional code of conduct will be submitted in the plan to ensure the quality of people who work with clients including children.

Since 2004, the government has been developing a social work training code. The national core curriculum for undergraduate studies and field placements was developed by the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) with support from UNICEF. Currently there are 30 universities offering social work undergraduate degrees. However, there is a chronic shortage of national trained professional social workers to contribute to the training programmes.

UNICEF supports for the development of professional counselling education programme specific for work with children and families is being developed at undergraduate and post graduate.

Concerning capacity building for "Para-professionals", the following activities have been undertaken:

Models of schools, hospitals, and community counselling provision agencies, are being piloted at the sub-national level to strengthen capacity of teachers, doctors, counsellors on social work and counselling for children. UNICEF supported piloting the models in two schools of Hanoi, a National Children's hospital in Hanoi, and various community counselling services in Hanoi and Ho Chi Min City. Short basic courses have been developed and delivered on social work, child protection counselling for children and families at sub-national level to frontline community workers. The Vietnamese government cooperates, as well, with UNICEF, SCS, OXFAM, Terre des Hommes (non-exhaustive list), to provide short course for people who work with children.

4. Societal behaviour change systems

4.1. What is being done to facilitate awareness-raising on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

To raise awareness on non-violent values and non-violent conflict resolution, parenting and education, different initiatives or channels have been explored during trainings, dissemination of material, pilot projects for advocacy purpose, and communication campaigns.

Training courses on corporal punishment and positive discipline for parents, teachers, media and other people have been conducted nationwide by Save the Children Sweden and partners Lamchame and the Centre for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender, Family, Women and Adolescents (CSAGA).

Materials on good parenting and good classroom management have been developed by Save the Children and its partners: The Manual on Good Parenting was been launched in 2007 at national level with Save the Children Sweden and Science Institute for Population Family and Children. It will be disseminated in four provinces farmer through unions in the North Vietnam. Save the Children Sweden is also working with Ministry of Education in Vinh Phuc, Tiang Gia and HCMC to elaborate material on good classroom management.

A pilot project on good parenting club is currently being implemented by Save the Children Sweden and its partner Lamchame, in Hanoi. In those parents' club, parents will be able to share their concerns, experiences and get information on how to educate their child without using violence.

A pilot project in Hanoi to prevent from violence in families and in the schools was jointly designed by Save the Children Sweden and its partner CSAGA and will be implemented in 2008.

The ultimate aim is to elaborate a model of prevention from corporal punishment that could be duplicated in other schools and communities.

Save the Children Sweden and its partner CSAGA organised a talk-show on violence against children. Also, the Save the Children Sweden partner, Lamchame, is currently operating a website where good parenting issues are shared and where users can access documentation and information related to children rights, VAC issues and good parenting.

From 2005 to 2007, UNICEF, Save the Children Sweden and Plan International jointly implemented a national communication campaign on child abuse, including Media Campaign, talk-shows, etc. There has also been extensive campaign work undertaken to raise awareness about the dangers of child and women trafficking.

4.2. What efforts are underway to ensure that perpetrators of violence against children are held accountable by Government and the public? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Trainings and awareness rising (on such subjects as violence against children, corporal punishment, children rights) for leaders, parents, communities and media leaders gained some results have been conducted. Also, medias representatives have received training from Save the Children Sweden are more and more talking about violence against children. It contributes to influence public opinion, leaders and government and encourages them to take action. Several cases of corporal punishment against children have been handled in Dongnai province, as an example.

Efforts have been made to improve the legal framework with the Decree 114, passed in August 2006, regulates administrative sanction for harmful behaviour including perpetrators of violence against children.

5. Cross-cutting themes

5.1. How is prevention being prioritized in the development of a consistent legal and policy framework, in enhancing the capacity of those working with and for children and in challenging social norms which condone violence? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Save the Children Sweden and its partners were involved in the process of producing the Domestic Violence law and decree (a workshop was organized earlier this year to discuss the content of two decrees) to use it as a tool to communicate to the public about violence and how to handle cases of violence. At the moment, the decrees are not yet finalized. The law will ban all forms of corporal punishment against children within home setting. Concerns remain regarding both communication on the law and law enforcement of Vietnam which needs to be strengthened in order that citizens become fully aware of the existence of the law.

5.2. What efforts are underway to systematically and meaningfully involve children and young people in national actions to eliminate violence against children? Please elaborate, mentioning who is leading such actions, as well as the positive factors and/or obstacles.

Save the Children Sweden is working with partners to effectively involve children in their projects areas. As a result, children become more confident to raise their voice and speak out against violence, have their rights respected, and to be considered as active citizens playing role in changing their own lives and contributing valuable information to our work. They also brought

concrete evidence that children can stop VAC. However, child participation is not a concept well understood or fully internalized and applied within government structures and practices.

UNICEF, in partnership with Vietnam Youth Union, established and implemented Child Forums and more than 2000 children's clubs through out the country. Children and young people in the country have had the opportunity to become involved in child right clubs to express their concerns and needs on the basic rights that include the right to protection from violence. Children can report cases or risks of violence through the system of the Child Rights clubs. However, the cooperation with concerned government agencies to handle the issues needs to be improved. The Youth Union is leading such actions. Children also share their views at national level and contributed to the CRC complement report on VAC to send to CRC Committee. UNICEF supported the government in child consultation to develop the 3rd and 4th Country CRC implementation report and SCS is leading the child consultations and CRC complementary report.

Save the Children Sweden has incorporated in its plan of action 2008 a specific objective regarding participation of children where "children take action, on at least three occasions, to raise public awareness about violence against children". Those joint actions (SCS, UNICEF, CSAGA, Molisa, and Plan) are the Children Day of action on Ending Violence, Child Camp and End of Violence running day and children making a movie on Corporal Punishment.

5.3. What steps have been taken to establish systems for reporting and referring cases of violence against children? Is there a legal obligation to investigate reports? Do such systems meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals? Please elaborate, mentioning positive factors and/or obstacles.

Steps for reporting and referring cases of VAC are being established as part of the Child National Protection Strategy. In the interim, there are practical guidelines on case management and risk assessment being developed by UNICEF and MOLISA. UNICEF and MOLISA planned to develop a guideline on case management which will provide clear guidance on legal responsibilities for each stakeholder, on reporting requirements and responding to referrals, intervention, etc.

Save the Children Sweden and UNICEF are working with MOLISA to advocate for the establishment of a children reporting system within Child National Protection Strategy. Within Vietnamese law, every person has the obligation to report crime. However, VAC is misunderstood by many people, including government workers which still believe that VAC is not a crime.

The current system of Vietnam does not fully meet children's needs to access face-to-face advice and support from qualified professionals since there has been a lack of counselling centres, social workers, professionally-trained train counsellors and a lack of communication on existing laws.

5.4. What efforts are underway to address the gender dimension of violence against children? Please mention in particular if there are initiatives to engage men and boys in leadership roles, or to analyze the different risks facing girls and boys in respect of violence.

We work on VAC in terms of both girls and boys and believe that both should work together to end VAC. We do not have any specific activities targeting boys and men lead or girls and women lead to end VAC

6. Inter-agency collaboration

6.1. To what extent do the UNICEF and Save the Children offices in your country collaborate in the follow-up to the UN Study?

UNICEF and Save The Children Fund work together and closely communicate to develop our coordination and joint plans.

For example, UNICEF called recently a meeting with Save the Children alliances to build cooperation between UNICEF and the Save the Children in different programmes areas: Protection, Education, Emergencies, Child Survival and Development. Ideally to reach a general MoU for future collaboration on related fields.

Regarding child protection, Save the Children and UNICEF work together on 1) a *Social Work* component will be jointly developed (SCF and UNICEF) including child protection systems from grassroots to central level, alternative care system, community based child protection system, advocacy strategy; 2) UNICEF will be leading the component *Law and Policy* on aspects of joint advocacy to develop legislation, finalization of National Protection System common strategy; Save the Children will lead the component *Good Parenting* with regard to good parenting trainings, Joint Advocacy Events and as far as *Juvenile Justice* is concerned, UNICEF will lead on community-based services, capacity building and mechanisms to incorporate children in the National Assembly Discussion; Save the Children Sweden will lead on child rights agenda.

